

*** NOTICES ***

JPO and INPIT are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

1.This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.

2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.

3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] A program selection means to choose a playback program, and the contents read-out means of record which usually reads the contents of record from a record medium above **** of reproduction speed, A contents distribution means of record to distribute said read contents of record according to a program, The program regenerative apparatus characterized by having a program playback means to generate a playback picture signal based on said distributed contents of record, and a video-signal output means to generate the video signal which carries out coincidence playback from said generated playback picture signal to in the same screen area.

[Claim 2] The program regenerative apparatus according to claim 1 characterized by outputting the playback picture signal which performed screen size modification processing which distributed the contents of record to the program playback means which it has according to a program with the contents distribution means of record, reproduced the single contents of record within the each playback means of said program, and was doubled with the distribution number.

[Claim 3] The program regenerative apparatus according to claim 1 which distributes the contents of record according to a program with the contents distribution means of record, carries out time sharing of the regeneration within a program playback means, and is characterized by outputting the playback picture signal which performed screen size modification processing which reproduced the single contents of record within division time amount, and was doubled with the distribution number.

[Claim 4] The program regenerative apparatus according to claim 2 or 3 characterized by considering read-out of the contents of record to the program which is not chosen from the contents read-out means of record as a halt when reproducing two or more programs to coincidence and playback by the independent display of a specific program is chosen by the program selection means.

[Claim 5] The program regenerative apparatus according to claim 2 or 3 characterized by canceling the display of the program which changed the number of screen separation in accordance with the remaining numbers of coincidence playbacks, and the video-signal output means ended by detecting termination of the program which the contents distribution means of record is reproducing in case two or more programs are reproduced to coincidence.

[Claim 6] It is the program regenerative apparatus according to claim 2 or 3 which the contents distribution means of record will suspend other read-out and distributions which are not chosen, and will be characterized by for a video-signal output means to output only the video signal of the selected program if the specific display screen is chosen with a program selection means while the contents read-out means of record reads to the count coincidence of plurality and is being reproduced with the fixed time interval to the same program.

[Claim 7] A program selection means to choose a playback program, and the contents read-out means of record which usually reads the contents of record from a record medium above **** of reproduction speed, A contents distribution means of record to distribute said read contents of record according to a program, The program regenerative apparatus characterized by having a

program voice playback means to generate a playback sound signal based on said distributed contents of record, and a sound signal output means to output the sound signal which considered said generated playback sound signal as the input, and performed an output setup.

[Claim 8] The program regenerative apparatus according to claim 7 characterized by distributing the contents of record to the program voice playback means which it has according to a program with the contents distribution means of record, and performing playback from the single contents of record within the each voice playback means of said program.

[Claim 9] The program regenerative apparatus according to claim 7 characterized by the contents distribution means of record distributing the contents of record according to a program, and carrying out time sharing of the regeneration within a program voice playback means, generating each playback sound signal from the single contents of record within division time amount, and confirming only said playback sound signal over a specific program.

[Claim 10] It is the program regenerative apparatus according to claim 8 or 9 characterized by changing to the voice output of the program which the contents distribution means of record stopped read-out and distribution of the contents of record which were not chosen temporarily, and canceled the voice output from a sound signal output means when having reproduced two or more programs to coincidence and independent playback of a specific program was chosen by the program selection means, and was chosen.

[Claim 11] The program regenerative apparatus according to claim 1 or 7 which has the program recording information for every program in a record medium, generates No. two or more group playback list from said program recording information in order to carry out coincidence playback of two or more programs as which the program selection means was chosen, and is characterized by said thing [having been generated] which read two or more two or more contents of program record from the contents read-out means of record according to a program playback list.

[Claim 12] The program regenerative apparatus according to claim 1 with which it has the program recording information for every program in a record medium, and a program selection means is characterized by that display image information is the same or choosing the program of the number of specification sequentially from a similar program with reference to said program recording information from from among the programs recorded on the record medium.

[Claim 13] The program regenerative apparatus according to claim 7 with which it has the program recording information for every program in a record medium, and a program selection means is characterized by that speech compression information is the same or choosing the program of the number of specification sequentially from a similar program with reference to said program recording information from from among the programs recorded on the record medium.

[Claim 14] The program regenerative apparatus according to claim 7 with which it has the program recording information for every program in a record medium, and a program selection means is characterized by that voice output information is the same or choosing the program of the number of specification sequentially from a similar program with reference to said program recording information from from among the programs recorded on the record medium.

[Claim 15] It is the program playback approach which reproduces two or more programs to coincidence at the time of playback of the record medium which recorded the contents of record about a program. Determine coincidence playback conditions, such as the number of programs reproduced to coincidence, read the contents of record of No. two or more grouping, and said contents of record are distributed according to a program. The program playback approach which generates each regenerative signal according to the contents of record divided according to the program, and is characterized by considering said regenerative signal as an input in each, and generating an output signal according to said coincidence playback conditions.

[Claim 16] The program playback approach according to claim 15 which has the program recording information for every program in a record medium, generates No. two or more group playback list of [for carrying out coincidence playback of two or more programs from said program recording information], and is characterized by said thing [having been generated] which read two or more contents of record according to a program playback list.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

JPO and INPIT are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1.This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.*** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the program regenerative apparatus and the program playback approach of reproducing No. two or more group on the same screen to coincidence at the time of playback of the record medium which recorded the program etc. according to the program.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In recent years, a video signal and sound signals, such as a program, are recorded on a record medium, and the video tape recorder (Following VTR and abbreviation) etc. has spread as a program regenerative apparatus which reproduces the recorded program. Moreover, the image by the compression signal etc. can be recorded now on record media, such as a hard disk and an optical disk, with increase of recording density. With VTR, after receiving a program and recording on a magnetic tape, the signal recorded on the magnetic tape is read and a record program is reproduced. Moreover, although invention which records at coincidence two or more data generated in coincidence on one record tape, and is reproduced by coincidence in the combination of arbitration from two or more data currently recorded is also devised, it is difficult to reproduce to coincidence the data recorded separately in the combination of arbitration in this invention.

[0003] Then, two or more data-logging regenerative apparatus (not shown) indicated by JP,10-327383,A is devised as equipment for reproducing two or more data of arbitration. Regeneration of this two or more data-logging regenerative apparatus prepares **** of two memory for every program data used by turns, in order to reproduce two or more program data using record media, such as DVD-RAM whose R/W is possible repeatedly, in the disk called DVD (Digital Versatile Disc) which is the media which compress a video signal etc. highly and can be recorded on high density. The read-out section of data and the beginning section to a regenerative circuit are prepared in coincidence playback of two or more program data. And from the location of the arbitration of a record medium, the clock timing more than the number of coincidence playbacks is generated, and coincidence playback of two or more data of arbitration is performed by writing out and transmitting data to a regenerative circuit from 1 more set of memory which reads into the group Mino memory of 1 in all way, and is not data read into the timing.

[0004] Moreover, in the example of the above-mentioned official report, it also has a means to record No. two or more group on coincidence, No. two or more group can be recorded to a record medium in accordance with the clock timing more than the number of coincidence records, and playback of two or more programs of arbitration is enabled from two or more programs written in this coincidence.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, in two or more data playbacks of arbitration, using 2-set Mino memory, the above-mentioned conventional configuration generated the clock timing more than the number of coincidence playbacks, and was performing read-out of data and the beginning to a display circuit. This was not a thing in consideration of the playback of No. two or more group which consists of a video signal with which the amounts of

record signals per unit time amount differ (a compression method differs from the rate of a compression ratio), but was what aims at two or more program playbacks of arbitration to coincidence from two or more programs which recorded by the chart lasting time by the same clock timing to two or more programs in the time of record like the above-mentioned official report. therefore, when it is highly minute, long duration record is performed with a program with many amounts of record signals per unit time amount and a program with few amounts of record signals per unit time amount etc. is reproduced to coincidence according to the program to record In read-out of the data which consist of clock timing which consists more than of the number of coincidence playbacks, the lack of read-out of data required of one side etc. might occur, and there was a trouble that application was difficult in two or more coincidence playback of the program from which the amount of record signals per unit time amount differs.

[0006] This invention solves the above-mentioned conventional trouble, and a program reproducible to coincidence is chosen from two or more programs which are [rate / of a compression ratio / which was recorded on the record medium] different. In order [which read each contents of record of each to separate timing, and distributed the contents of record according to the program] to perform elongation playback of a compression signal to a record program respectively, A user does not take into consideration the rate of a record compression ratio etc., but ** is also aimed at offering the equipment which planned the convenience which can perform playback which does not overlook a specific scene etc., watching two or more programs of arbitration to coincidence.

[0007]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The program regenerative apparatus of this invention for attaining this purpose A program selection means to choose a playback program, and the contents read-out means of record which usually reads the contents of record from a record medium above **** of reproduction speed, A contents distribution means of record to distribute said read contents of record according to a program, A program playback means to generate a playback picture signal based on said distributed contents of record, Consist of a video-signal output means to generate the video signal which carries out coincidence playback in the same screen area from said generated playback picture signal, and a playback program is chosen from two or more programs. Since the video signal projected in the same screen from the result which distributed the contents of record according to the program of having performed elongation playback of a record program respectively is outputted, the program regenerative apparatus which can carry out the playback check of the No. two or more group in the same screen at coincidence can be offered.

[0008]

[Embodiment of the Invention] A program selection means by which invention of the 1st of this invention chooses a playback program, and the contents read-out means of record which usually reads the contents of record from a record medium above **** of reproduction speed, A contents distribution means of record to distribute said read contents of record according to a program, It is a thing equipped with a program playback means to generate a playback picture signal based on said distributed contents of record, and a video-signal output means to generate the video signal which carries out coincidence playback from said generated playback picture signal to in the same screen area. A playback program is chosen from two or more programs, and since the video signal projected in the same screen from the result which distributed the contents of record according to the program of having performed elongation playback of a record program respectively is outputted, it has an operation that the playback check of No. two or more group in the same screen can be performed to coincidence.

[0009] Invention of the 2nd of this invention is invention subordinate to the 1st invention, and the contents of record are distributed to the program playback means which it has according to a program with the contents distribution means of record. Since program playback can be independently aimed at by having two or more program playback means by outputting the playback picture signal which performed screen size modification processing which reproduced the single contents of record within the each playback means of said program, and was doubled with the distribution number Also to the contents of record from which the compression ratio

and the amount of recording information per unit time amount differ for every program, since it is refreshable, it has an operation that there are few limits of coincidence playback of No. two or more group.

[0010] Invention of the 3rd of this invention is invention subordinate to the 1st invention, and distributes the contents of record according to a program with the contents distribution means of record. Carry out time sharing of the regeneration within a program playback means, and the single contents of record are reproduced within division time amount. If only it stores each contents of record in the memory according to program etc., two or more program playbacks with a highly efficient single program playback means are more possible than outputting the playback picture signal which performed screen size modification processing doubled with the distribution number. Therefore, reduction of component part mark can be aimed at, and it has an operation that playback is possible to the contents of record for every program, without having two or more program playback means.

[0011] Invention of the 4th of this invention is invention subordinate to the 2nd and 3rd invention. When reproducing two or more programs to coincidence and playback by the independent display of a specific program is chosen by the program selection means From considering read-out of the contents of record to the program which is not chosen from the contents read-out means of record as a halt, if playback of only the specific selected screen is canceled, it has an operation that playback of other halted programs can be resumed immediately.

[0012] Invention of the 5th of this invention is invention subordinate to the 2nd and 3rd invention. By canceling the display of the program which changed the number of screen separation in accordance with the remaining numbers of coincidence playbacks, and said video-signal output means ended by detecting termination of the program which the contents distribution means of record is reproducing in case two or more programs are reproduced to coincidence Playback of the program by reduction of the number of coincidence playbacks has a post process and an operation that each playback screen size by reduction of the number of coincidence playback programs can be changed automatically.

[0013] While invention of the 6th of this invention is invention subordinate to the 2nd and 3rd invention, and the contents read-out means of record reads to the count coincidence of plurality and is being reproduced with the fixed time interval to the same program By suspending other read-out and distributions as which said contents distribution means of record is not chosen, and outputting only the video signal of a program with which said video-signal output means was chosen, if the specific display screen is chosen with a program selection means When it seems that he wants to look for a specific scene within a certain program, and to perform playback from there, if a specific scene is found, it has the operation which can confirm only the screen reproduced from the scene and to say.

[0014] A program selection means by which invention of the 7th of this invention chooses a playback program, and the contents read-out means of record which usually reads the contents of record from a record medium above **** of reproduction speed, A contents distribution means of record to distribute said read contents of record according to a program, It is a thing equipped with a program voice playback means to generate a playback sound signal based on said distributed contents of record, and a sound signal output means to output the sound signal which considered said generated playback sound signal as the input, and performed an output setup. A playback program is chosen from two or more programs, and it has an operation that the voice according to program which the user set up can be outputted to coincidence from the voice output terminal which distributed the contents of record according to the program and which reproduces a record program respectively and is in a program regenerative apparatus.

[0015] By invention of the 8th of this invention being invention subordinate to the 7th invention, and the contents distribution means of record distributing the contents of record to the program voice playback means according to program, and performing playback from the single contents of record within the each voice playback means of said program Since each can advance a read-out demand required for playback also to the contents of record from which the compression method per unit time amount, a compression ratio, and the amount of recording information differ

for every program, it has an operation that there are few limits of coincidence playback of No. two or more group.

[0016] Invention of the 9th of this invention is invention subordinate to the 7th invention, and distributes the contents of record according to a program with the contents distribution means of record. By carrying out time sharing of the regeneration within a program voice playback means, generating each playback sound signal from the single contents of record within division time amount, and carrying out effective [only of said playback sound signal over a specific program] Since a voice output can be performed only about one program in the program currently reproduced by coincidence and those without a voice output can be performed about other playback programs in the meantime, it has an operation of being easy to realize the comparison audition which hears the voice of each program under coincidence playback certainly, and compares it.

[0017] Invention of the 10th of this invention is invention subordinate to the 8th and 9th invention, and is set to coincidence at the time of playback of two or more programs. When independent playback of a specific program is chosen by the program selection means, read-out and distribution of the contents of record as which the contents distribution means of record was not chosen are stopped temporarily. If playback of only the specific program chosen by changing the voice output from a sound signal output means to the voice output of the program canceled and chosen is stopped, it has an operation that playback of other halted programs can be resumed immediately.

[0018] Invention of the 11th of this invention is invention subordinate to the 1st and 7th invention. Have the program recording information for every program in a record medium, and in order to carry out coincidence playback of two or more programs as which the program selection means was chosen, No. two or more group playback list is generated from said program recording information. Since read-out according to the coincidence playback list on condition of carrying out coincidence playback of the No. two or more group by [said / which read two or more two or more contents of record from the contents read-out means of record according to a program playback list] having been generated can be performed, it has an operation that a record medium can be accessed efficiently.

[0019] Invention of the 12th of this invention is invention subordinate to the 1st invention, and has the program recording information for every program in a record medium. From from, said program recording information is referred to among the programs by which the program selection means was recorded on the record medium. That display image information is the same or by choosing the program of the number of specification sequentially from a similar program Since share-izing of display image information and share-ization of an image processing can be achieved in program playback of each program, it has an operation that reduction of the load of program playback and reduction of the amount of working-level month memory required for each program playback can be aimed at.

[0020] Invention of the 13th of this invention is invention subordinate to the 7th invention, and has the program recording information for every program in a record medium. From from, said program recording information is referred to among the programs by which said program selection means was recorded on the record medium. That speech compression information is the same or by choosing the program of the number of specification sequentially from a similar program Since it is in charge of voice playback of each program and the difference in signal processing for program playback by the difference of a compression method etc. can be lost, it has an operation that reduction of the load of program playback can be aimed at.

[0021] Invention of the 14th of this invention is invention subordinate to the 7th invention, and has the program recording information for every program in a record medium. From from, said program recording information is referred to among the programs by which said program selection means was recorded on the record medium. That voice output information is the same or by choosing the program of the number of specification sequentially from a similar program Even when the music playback program under coincidence playback is changed, it has an operation that playback can be continued, without changing a setup by the side of the connected amplifier.

[0022] In the time of playback of the record medium with which invention of the 15th of this invention recorded the contents of record about a program Coincidence playback conditions, such as the number of programs which is the program playback approach which reproduces two or more programs to coincidence, and is reproduced to coincidence, are determined. The contents of record of No. two or more grouping are read, said contents of record are distributed according to a program, each regenerative signal is generated according to the contents of record divided according to the program, and it is what considers said regenerative signal as an input in each, and generates an output signal according to said coincidence playback conditions. A playback program is chosen from two or more programs, and since a regenerative signal is outputted from the result which distributed the contents of record according to the program of having reproduced the record program respectively, it has an operation that it can perform easily performing the playback check of No. two or more group to coincidence.

[0023] Invention of the 16th of this invention is invention subordinate to the 15th invention, and has the program recording information for every program in said record medium. Generate No. two or more group playback list of [for carrying out coincidence playback of two or more programs from said program recording information], and by [said / which read said contents of record] having been generated according to a program playback list two or more Since read-out according to the coincidence playback list on condition of carrying out coincidence playback of the No. two or more group can be performed, it has an operation that a record medium can be accessed efficiently.

[0024] Hereafter, the gestalt of operation of this invention is explained using a drawing.

[0025] (Gestalt 1 of operation) Drawing 1 is the block diagram showing the fundamental configuration of the program regenerative apparatus using the program playback approach by the gestalt 1 of operation of this invention. The record medium with which 11 recorded the contents of record about two or more programs in drawing 1 , A program selection means to choose the program which reproduces 12 automatically within the input from a user, or a program regenerative apparatus, A contents read-out means of record by which 13 reads the contents of record of each program in a record medium 11, A contents distribution means of record to distribute the contents of record of two or more programs which read 14 from the contents read-out means 13 of record to the contents of record according to program, The program playback means A which 15, and 16 and 17 consider as an input the contents of record distributed according to the program with the contents distribution means 14 of record, and is reproduced in each, the program playback means B and the program playback means C, and 18 are video-signal output means to generate the video signal from the output of program playback means A15 grade to the equipment exterior.

[0026] There is various classification, such as magnetic-recording media, such as a hard disk, and magneto-optic-recording media, in a record medium 11. Moreover, there are also a tape-like medium and a disk-like medium. DVD-RAM explains a record medium 11 like the conventional example here. A different record medium 11 from DVD-RAM is explained later.

[0027] The example of representation of the program recorded on a record medium 11 is a broadcast signal. The signal of broadcast voice, such as an electric-wave signal, light, and a cable signal of the same axle, is included in this. Moreover, the signal sent with the network gestalt by the Internet using the telephone line, a dedicated line, etc. 1 to 1 is also included. If it sees from a program regenerative-apparatus side, the signal which can be received as program information is made into an input signal from the point where a program is sent, it will be tuner equipment, or will be modem equipment, or signal reception will be made by the decryption equipment of the multiplexed received data. The bit reduction of the received data is carried out, and they are changed into the contents of record recorded on a record medium 11. Since there is a limitation in a capacity recordable in a record medium 11, record of long duration has been realized by carrying out bit reduction and reducing the amount of recording information.

[0028] A program signal and the program recording information about the contents of a record program are recorded on the record medium 11 as contents of record. For example, program recording start time of day, hour entries, such as a record period, a broadcasting station name (or receiving channel name), a record program name, etc. are included in program recording

information. [when compressing and recording an image and an audio signal furthermore] To the compressed program signal, the method of bit reduction, the compress mode of a compression video signal, Image resolution, an aspect ratio (16:9 or screen ratio of 4:3 grades), A display-mode format (a pan scan and letter box), the screen output form currently assumed (525 horizontal resolution, 625, etc.), Compression related information, such as audio coding mode of a compression audio signal, an audio sampling frequency, a quantifying bit number, and the number of audio channels, is also contained. Furthermore, the effectiveness of explaining that information, such as viewing-and-listening limit information at the time of playback, and a count of playback, the newest playback day, is added to program recording information later can be acquired.

[0029] With reference to drawing 2 , an example is given and explained about the program playback approach in the gestalt 1 of operation of this invention. Drawing 2 is a flow chart which shows the processing actuation at the time of initiation of the program playback approach concerning the gestalt 1 of operation of this invention of operation.

[0030] The information on each program is acquired with reference to the program recording information in a record medium 11 (step S101). In case a playback program is determined, a broadcast hour entry, a record program name (the broadcast channel information and broadcasting station name), etc. which are program recording information are displayed on a screen etc., and the program recorded by the program selection means 12 is specified. When there is detailed recording information, such as a subtitle name and a program work firm name, to each program, of course, the configuration which can choose them as a display or a search key may be used. Here, not only playback of a single program but coincidence playback of two or more programs is explained as a premise. With the program selection means 12, a user chooses two or more programs from a refreshable program (step S102).

[0031] The contents distribution means 14 of record acquires the program information chosen from the program selection means 12, and tells information required for coincidence record playback to each means by which it is related. The distribution number which distributes two or more contents of record according to a program first is determined (step S103). For example, a distribution number and information required for distribution are generated. Next, compression related information, such as a compression method, is read from the contents of record of each program in a record medium 11, and initialization information required for playback is told to program playback means A15 grade (step S104). Furthermore, video-signal output method information, such as a screen size required for a video-signal output, and the number of screen separation, an output location of each program, is set as the video-signal output means 18 from the compression related information of the number of playback programs, and each program (step S105).

[0032] The information and compression related information about playback of each program can read and acquire program recording information. The information about playback is defined as playback list information. The playback list information about one program consists of program chains which store the information which determines the playback sequence of the playback logical unit cel of each program. The playback start time and the playback period which used this program chain, the continuation information on the following program chain, the storing positional information of each cel, etc. are dedicated to the information on this program chain. Storing positional information, a playback hour entry, etc. of recording information which become each cel from a compression video signal required for playback, a compression audio signal, etc. of each program are dedicated.

[0033] And by the contents read-out means 13 of record, the storing location of the contents of record of each program is given from a record medium 11, and read-out is started (step S106). Once having the memory for shunting called a track buffer to this contents read-out means 13 of record temporarily and reading the contents of record to a track buffer, it transmits to the contents distribution means 14 of record. As for the contents of record transmitted to the contents distribution means 14 of record, the distribution place is specified for every program, for example, the contents [as opposed to / in the contents of record over Program A / Program B to the program playback means A15] of record are transmitted for the program playback

means B16 (step S107). Reading the contents of record of each program, the contents distribution means 14 of record checks playback list information etc., and checks the read-out location of the following contents of record each time. In carrying out coincidence playback of two or more programs, it processes according to a program to the information on each program read to coincidence. In each program playback means, the contents of record required in order to have buffer memory, not to break off and to reproduce the compressed program are stored. Hundreds of K bytes of this storage capacity is required of the compression method of the criterion of MPEG 2 video. It is necessary to read each contents of record until each buffer memory of not only the program playback means A15 but the program playback means B16 or the program playback means C17 fills, in order to reproduce two or more programs to coincidence. For example, if the buffer memory of the program playback means B16 is not full, the contents read-out demand of record of an applicable program will be generated to the contents distribution means 14 of record (step S109). And reading is repeated until the buffer memory within each program playback means fills (step S108). When each buffer memory fills, playback of the program by each program playback means is started (step S110). Buffer memory should just be memory accessible at a high speed rather than is constituted from 2-set Mino memory like the conventional example. Or it considers as a FIFO memory, and if the memory of a configuration of that it is asynchronous and read-out and writing can be performed is used, it is not necessary to have 2-set Mino memory specially.

[0034] If the contents of record in buffer memory decrease by reproducing each program and reproducing the contents of record in the buffer memory within each program record means, read-out of the following contents of record will be required respectively. Therefore, between each program playback means, a synchronization is not taken but it considers as the configuration which requires the contents of record required for the next playback at the time of the need. All decision of the record positional information of each program and the playback location of each program is made with the contents distribution means 14 of record. In reproducing continuously the contents of record of the program which it takes charge of, the contents distribution means 14 of record takes charge of control the amount of which to read playback list information and to read from what location in a record medium 11. The contents read-out means 13 of record is a role which reads each contents of record from a record medium 11 to a high speed by the command from the contents distribution means 14 of record. Moreover, as for the program playback means A15, only information actually required for playback is inputted. Although each program playback means performs management of buffer memory, direct control does not actually carry out a record medium 11.

[0035] Next, the contents of processing within the program playback means A15 are explained. Drawing 3 is the block diagram showing the configuration of one program playback means in the program regenerative apparatus in the gestalt 1 of operation of this invention. Moreover, drawing 4 is a flow chart which shows the contents of processing within the program playback means A15.

[0036] The program playback means A15 consists of the video decoder section 22 which decodes a compression video signal from the contents of record, the buffer memory section 21 which saves the contents of record, and the picture signal processing section 23 which processes screen size modification etc. to the decoded playback picture signal. The contents of record distributed from the contents distribution means 14 of record are first stored in the buffer memory section 21. And the compression video signal which are compression related information required for playback of a picture signal and a program signal for videos is read from the buffer memory section 21. In playback of a compression video signal, a compression video signal is elongated and decrypted using compression related information, such as a bit reduction method (compression methods as an example, such as MPEG 2), image resolution, and an output screen size, (this processing is defined as decoding). The result of having decoded the compression video signal is again stored in the buffer memory section 21. If the output of NTSC system is assumed as a video output, it is necessary to generate the image of about 30 sheets in 1 second. Decoding of the first screen of one sheet is made first (step S121).

[0037] What is necessary is just to output the playback picture signal stored in the buffer

memory section 21 to the video-signal output means 18 as it is, if the number of coincidence program playbacks is 1. However, a screen size is changed when the number of coincidence program playbacks is plurality (step S122). This is because it is necessary to reduce each screen size in order to display two or more playback screens on the same screen. For example, four programs are reproduced to coincidence, and in order to display that each screen does not lap, the viewing area of length and width is made into one half, respectively, and it changes into the screen size of a quadrant in area. Then, perpendicularly, it realizes by operating the scanning line on a curtailed schedule. On the occasion of infanticide of this perpendicular direction, a clinch spectrum and flicker active jamming-ization are prevented using the perpendicular filter which consists of a low pass filter etc. to a perpendicular signal. A part of buffer memory section 21 which constitutes a screen although thinning out data can also be realized on the other hand after minding horizontally the level filter which consists of a low pass filter is constituted from a field memory, it reads with a write-in clock, and the frequency of a clock is changed, after minding a level filter, data are written in, and there is also the approach of compressing data by reading to a high speed to writing. Modification processing of a screen size etc. is performed in the picture signal processing section 23 by such approach (step S123).

[0038] The changed playback picture signal is outputted to the video-signal output means 18 from the picture signal processing section 23 (step S124). In addition, before a playback picture signal is outputted, an image print-out is told to the video-signal output means 18 from the contents distribution means 14 of record. As an example of an image print-out, information, such as an output location in the same screen, output size, existence of an output, and a superposition priority of No. two or more group, is included. This image print-out is considered as the configuration outputted only at the time of the need, and when the time of the first display and the number of playback programs are changed, it is outputted. It is not necessary to output continuously synchronizing with a playback picture signal. An image print-out should just be first outputted by the first one screen display. In addition, in order to lay two or more programs on top of the same screen, there are an approach of changing a screen size so that each screen may not lap, a method of displaying one screen of representation in standard size, and laying them on top of a representation screen, using the remaining screens as a small screen size, the approach of allowing and displaying superposition of some playback screens to a coincidence playback program, etc. It is good also as a configuration which tells the information about each display position or a screen size to each program playback means and the video-signal output means 18 from the method of presentation which also chose the method of presentation of the screen of No. two or more group with the program selection means 12, and was chosen from the contents distribution means 14 of record.

[0039] The capacity (about hundreds of K bytes) which reads the contents of record first, the capacity (about several megabytes) which stores the image of a three-sheet phase-splitting this in order to generate the image of one sheet, referring to the image of order, when the compression method about a compression video signal is an MPEG method, and the capacity (about hundreds of K bytes) which stores the playback picture signal which made a screen size change are required for the buffer memory section 21. The amount of buffer memory of about 2 to 4 megabytes is required for one program playback means A15 in total.

[0040] As an approach of transmitting the contents of record to the buffer memory section 21 from the contents distribution means 14 of record, the method (a drawing middle point line shows) which carries out transfer direct to the buffer memory section 21 may be used, and the method (a drawing solid line shows) transmitted through the video decoder section 22 may be used. moreover, the thing which has only a good video signal and which carried out and included the sound signal in the video signal is sufficient as the contents of record written in the buffer memory section 21. The video decoder section 22 confirms only a video signal, and decodes a compression video signal.

[0041] Moreover, as an output form to the video-signal output means 18, a playback picture signal is outputted with digital signals, such as information which shows the hue and brightness of each pixel of one screen. The format (a drawing middle point line shows) directly transmitted to the image memory within the video-signal output means 18 from the buffer memory section

21 is sufficient, and the format (a drawing solid line shows) which outputs the result to which the picture signal processing section 23 carried out signal processing is sufficient. If it sees from the video-signal output means 18 whichever it is a configuration, the playback picture signal with which the screen size etc. was changed should just be outputted. The information on two or more screens is compounded within the video-signal output means 18.

[0042] The video-signal output means 18 generates the video signal to output based on the image print-out and playback picture signal which were outputted. Here, the method with which the video signal outputted to the same screen is generated from the playback screen of two or more programs and which the approach of transmitting the information on each screen to the image memory for an output at this, and creating the screen of one sheet may be used, and only the number of coincidence program playbacks has a video plane, and piles up a usual picture area may be used. The latter is realizable by using the semi-conductor excellent in the graphic function to pile up two or more screens. The video-signal output means 18 outputs as a video signal of the output form which united the video signal which reproduced No. two or more group on the same screen with video-signal input methods, such as an analog signal output of NTSC system, television, such as an RGB code, and a projector.

[0043] Two or more program playback means can be constituted from a circuit which put in order two or more semi-conductors which reproduce one program, and can be considered as the configuration which outputs a playback picture signal. Moreover, even the circuit which can reproduce two or more programs separately, and conversion of each image size and the circuit which lays each screen of No. two or more group on top of the same screen of the video-signal output means 18 further can also be built in one semi-conductor for image processings. It is possible for it to be small in external or the configuration to build in, then No. two or more group regenerative apparatus, and to realize memory required for this semi-conductor for image processings.

[0044] When the independent display of a specific program is directed to coincidence from the program selection means 12 by a user's input during playback of two or more programs, read-out [/ in addition to the program which corresponds from the contents distribution means 14 of record] of the contents of record is considered as a halt. Therefore, the contents read-out means 13 of record reads only the contents of record of the selected program. And playback of only the specific selected program is continued. A screen display is changed into the independent display of a playback screen, or only a selection screen continues playback all over two or more screens, and others are constituted so that it can display in the state of the still picture of a halt. It is convenient to observe only the scene of a specific program in the program under coincidence playback if it has such a function. On the other hand, playback of the halted program stands by in the condition that it can resume immediately. The program playback means B16 and the program playback means C17 which playback is suspended will start playback from the next screen you to be Sumiya, if the screen information at the time of a halt is held and a halt is canceled. Therefore, since program playback is resumed without improving other programs once which will be involved at first even if No. two or more group is being reproduced and it chooses playback of the program of arbitration, a user's facilities can be measured.

[0045] Furthermore, the time of playback of one program under playback being completed during playback of two or more programs is explained to coincidence. When playback termination (termination detection of recording information etc.) of the program A which has the contents distribution means 14 of record from playback list information is detected as an example, it notifies that distribution of the contents of record to the program playback means A15 are completed. And read-out about an applicable program is terminated from the contents read-out means 13 of record. The display of the program which changed the number of screen separation in accordance with the further remaining numbers of coincidence playbacks, and the video-signal output means 18 ended is canceled. In order to do these activities automatically with termination of program playback, a user can recognize that playback of a program was completed by reduction of the number of coincidence playbacks. Furthermore, it is also possible to change screen separation size etc. with the remaining numbers of coincidence playbacks.

[0046] For more than one's being reproduced to coincidence, it is not necessarily No. two or

more group. To the same program, a specific scene etc. is found out and there is also a demand of wanting to perform the usual playback, from there. For example, although seen to the last middle, it is the example of remembering while it saw how far or each scene is seen. In such a case, the contents distribution means 14 of record sets up a distribution number etc., and defines a read-out time interval. And the demand which the contents read-out means 13 of record reads to the count coincidence of plurality with a fixed time interval to the same program is performed. Therefore, when reproducing with a fixed time interval, it can realize easily by performing the same processing as the time of reproducing another program. And if a specific scene is found and the specific display screen is chosen with the program selection means 12, it will be judged that other playbacks do not have the need and other read-out from the contents read-out means 14 of record will be stopped. And playback of only a program playback means A15 to correspond becomes effective, and the configuration which outputs only the video signal of the screen where the video-signal output means 18 was chosen, then a desired function can be realized.

[0047] Unlike DVD-ROM (DVD of only read-out) of the package media compressed, recorded and marketed, reading and DVD-RAM can write images and speech information, such as a movie program, repeatedly. The disk is excellent in the reproducibility reproduced while rearranging sequence at the time of playback and maintaining a continuity at it, even if unlike a tape it is easy to perform random access, and it cannot perform search after retrieval etc. quickly or it does not record in good order. Of course, the hard disk which a personal computer etc. is sufficient as and is used can be used for a record medium 11. However, in the case of the record medium 11 which time and effort requires for attachment-and-detachment impossibilities, such as a fixed hard disk, or attachment and detachment, in order for storage capacity to have a limit and to record many programs, the limit of storage capacity of the way which uses the removable record medium 11 is lost, and it is convenient. Moreover, writing can also use the record media 11 (for example, CD-R, DVD-R, etc.) allowed only once. Although this invention is effective also in the medium which allows writing only once like a read-only medium like DVD-ROM, and DVD-R, it is the most effective in the record medium 11 which can be written any number of times, such as DVD-RAM and a hard disk. Although detaching and attaching can apply also to a hard disk in an unnecessary application, the disk or the removable hard disk of removable DVD-RAM fits the purpose that a program is recorded and it can reproduce.

[0048] The read-out rate from a record medium 11 is explained. By interface specification, such as a hard disk, there is specification, such as UltraATA, and if the mode 2 of UltraDMA is used, the maximum transfer rate will become 33.3 megabytes per second (about 260 megabits per second). On the other hand, the DVD-ROM drive and the drive which improvement in the speed is timed and has the reproduction speed more than **** have appeared. When average reproduction speed of the compression signal of a program with the compression method of MPEG 2 used with DVD is made into 4 megabits per second, and it is 8X, it is equivalent to 32 megabits per second. Furthermore, the reproduction speed which reproduces each program is about 10 megabits or less per a maximum of second. In reproducing two or more programs, if the interface specification of the mode 2 grade of UltraDMA is used, it is generous enough. If buffer memory writing out the read contents of record is used as the memory which can access high speeds, such as SDRAM, and being constituted from a 16-bit bus, it can write by 100 megabytes of number per second by cutting tool conversion, and a problem will not be generated at an access rate. Like a DVD-ROM drive, since improvement in the speed is timed also about the drive which plays a DVD-RAM disk, it is assumed that the coincidence playback of the No. two or more group can be carried out. In addition, the program compressed into the hard disk by MPEG 2 etc. is recorded, and when carrying out two or more coincidence playback, since read-out by dozens of megabits is possible, the drive which reads the contents of record of two or more programs to coincidence can be constituted by writing in and reading the contents of record of the program of DVD-RAM to a hard disk, a lot of semiconductor memory, etc. once. Of course, at least a hard disk can read two or more programs to a high speed.

[0049] It cannot be overemphasized that the still more nearly refreshable number of programs to coincidence will increase them if they are constituted from two or more drives, although the

record medium 11 of one sheet with which the above was stored in one set of a drive to two or more programs have been explained about coincidence playback. However, this invention can realize the program regenerative apparatus which can reproduce two or more programs to coincidence even from two or more programs recorded on the record medium 11 of one sheet. [0050] It is better to arrange the contents of record of one program in the continuous possible location, in order to read the contents of record to a high speed. Usually, in DVD-ROM which recorded the movie software marketed, it is not continuously recorded in consideration of branching by a user's alternative etc. by the middle in many cases. For this reason, the access times, such as transit time of an optical pickup, are required rather than it is recorded continuously. Therefore, the capacity of a track buffer is made to increase to two or more coincidence playbacks, or the number of coincidence playbacks is limited to them. However, if recorded continuously, time amount required for seeking of an optical pickup etc. will be shortened. Furthermore, a track buffer is treated like cache memory, and even if you do not read the predicted information as again as possible, suppose that it is effective. The capacity of a track buffer can be reduced as a result. Therefore, what is continuously recorded at the time of record to the record medium 11 to DVD-RAMs, such as a program, etc. is desired.

[0051] Although the example of the playback program selection by the user was explained, the function which chooses a playback program automatically by the equipment side can be added. It explained becoming the contents of record from the program recording information containing a program signal and compression related information. Since the program was chosen by referring to the program recording information currently written in the record medium 11, the same contents were realizable even if it used not only archive media, such as DVD-RAM and a hard disk, but DVD-ROM, CD-ROM, and an archive medium like DVD-R or CD-R. Therefore, it is applicable also to the record medium 11 which materials, such as a movie, recorded not only like the application which reproduces the signal of the program recorded on a record medium 11 like DVD-RAM but DVD-ROM. Even when it is DVD-ROM with which a certain movie marketed was recorded, it is effective in an application which is reproduced to the count coincidence of plurality with specific time intervals (for example, 10 etc. minutes etc.), and finds out the specific scene to worry.

[0052] Moreover, the contents of record of a record medium 11 (program recording information) are read at the time of playback initiation, and if the program selection means 12 chooses the program of the number of specification in order and is reproduced from the program recorded most in the past, recording from a playback program itself will become easy to judge whether it is an unnecessary program. It can use [since there is a limitation also in the number of programs recordable on a record medium 11,] in order to eliminate an unnecessary program, to secure the availability for next record, and to check the contents of a program.

[0053] Furthermore, the program selection means 12 can choose the program of the number of specification sequentially from the program recorded recently, and can also be reproduced. Conditioning which is reproduced before forgetting the fact which recorded the program which also recorded this on recently, and judges whether it is the program which should be saved can be performed. Since there is a limitation also in the number of programs recordable on a record medium 11, of course, an unnecessary program is eliminated, and it can use for the contents check of a program for securing the availability for next record.

[0054] If viewing-and-listening limit information is established, a refreshable program can be chosen for every user. Two or more programs which a child may be made to watch can be reproduced automatically, and it can apply also to the application of a child making the program included in mind choose.

[0055] However, the configuration which allows adding the information at the time of playback and writing in program recording information to the program recorded respectively, then the following expansion can be aimed at. In addition, in order to make the current update of program recording information possible, the archive medium whose rewriting is possible for a record medium 11 any number of times, such as DVD-RAM and a hard disk, is suitable. For example, the following control will be attained if it has playback time information, the count information of playback, the last playback part information, etc. in each program as program recording

information.

[0056] If the program selection means 12 chooses the program of the number of specification sequentially from the program reproduced recently, it is immediately reproducible from the program which he often watches. If the program of the number of specification is chosen sequentially from what was reproduced most in the past on the other hand and it reproduces, it can check, whenever it was recording what kind of program or there is a reproductive opportunity. Moreover, the count of playback can also be referred to. Since it can assume that the program with many counts of playback has many requests of wanting to reproduce immediately, priority can be given, and it can assume that the program with few counts of playback does not have record worth of a program, and can raise to the candidate when becoming at which the record possible capacity of a record medium 11 remains and becomes empty and who erases. Moreover, if the playback information how far it reproduced last time is established, the program which is in the middle of playback and was interrupted can be chosen the number of specification in order, and it can also reproduce.

[0057] Moreover, the program regenerative apparatus which performs program selection which referred to compression related information among the program recording information which it has for every program in a record medium 11 can be constituted. The program selection means 12 chooses the program of the number of specification from the program recorded on the record medium 11 sequentially from that display image information is the same or a similar program with reference to program recording information. Specifically, information, such as a picture compression method and resolution, is referred to. If a compression method, the resolution of an image, etc. are common to each program playback means, share-ization of display image information can be achieved in program playback of each program. For example, if the resolution of a display image is the same, modification processing of a screen size serves as the same contents respectively, and share-ization of a parameter can be achieved. Moreover, if a compression method is unified, since it will become easy to predict the load by decoding from the case where it is not unified, reduction-ization of the capacity of the track buffer of contents read-out means of record 12 grade etc. can be achieved.

[0058] Furthermore, the following applications can be performed if a performer's etc. information is included in program recording information. For example, there is alternative about the performer of each program, and if it chooses through the program selection means 12, only the program in which a certain specific performer appears is reproducible to two or more coincidence. if time amount assignment of the appearance scene etc. is furthermore carried out, each call appearance of the point which performed time amount delivery from the playback initiation time is carried out, and it can apply also to the application which carries out playback initiation at coincidence. The hour entries (appearance start time, appearance period, etc.) from program start time are required for specification of an appearance scene. Furthermore, what is necessary is to choose a simultaneous refreshable program, to read the hour entry in it and just to reproduce the specified program, if the performer who chose previously, and a different performer are chosen. If it is that it is also considering an appearance scene as a hour entry, expansion of a screen can also be automatically performed on the scene in which a specific person appears. The program selection means 12 can provide a user with the detailed information which referred to program recording information, and can also give a table-of-contents retrieval guidance function. If a table-of-contents retrieval guidance function is used, the selection of a program and target scene reproducing to wish will become still easier. Of course also in coincidence playback of two or more programs, it is effective. The new usage beyond reproducing independently the program signal with which the former was recorded with the program regenerative apparatus of this invention which can perform application of these various kinds can be offered.

[0059] (Gestalt 2 of operation) Drawing 5 is the block diagram showing the contents of the program playback means which is one of the components of the program regenerative apparatus using the program playback approach by the gestalt 2 of operation of this invention. In drawing 5, a contents distribution means of record distribute the contents of two or more programs which read 31 from the contents read-out means of record of record to the contents of record

according to program, the program playback means which are reproduced by 32 considering as an input the contents of record distributed according to a program with the contents distribution means 31 of record, and 33 are a video-signal output means generate the signal which outputs from the output of a program playback means 32 to the equipment exterior.

[0060] The buffer memory A36 which saves the contents of record for every distributed program for the program playback means 32, buffer memory B37, and buffer memory C38, The video decoder section 34 which carries out time sharing of the regeneration of the contents of record of each program stored in each of such buffer memory, reproduces the contents of record from each contents of record within division time amount, and generates the playback picture signal of each program, It consists of the picture signal processing sections 35 which perform screen size modification processing in which the playback picture signal stored in each buffer memory was doubled with the distribution number.

[0061] The differences between the gestalt 2 of operation and the gestalt 1 of operation are transmitting the contents of record of each program directly to each buffer memory of the contents distribution means 31 of record to the difference in the configuration of a program playback means, and the program playback means 32, and the point of having taken the configuration of outputting the playback picture signal reproduced by the video-signal output means 33 from each buffer memory. Although not shown in drawing 5 , it is the same as that of the configuration shown in drawing 1 , a record medium 11, the program selection means 12, and the contents read-out means 13 of record can be constituted, and the input to the contents distribution means 31 of record is made.

[0062] If the throughput of the video decoder section 34 is high and decoding of two or more programs is possible by performing time sharing for decoder processing, it is not necessary to have the video decoder section for every program playback. What is necessary is just to be able to generate one screen every 1/90 second, if it is coincidence playback of three programs since what is necessary is just to generate one screen for an NTSC output every 1/30 second per a premise, then program. Moreover, after decoding of one screen finishes and being stored in buffer memory A36 as a playback picture signal, according to the number of coincidence playbacks, modification processing of a screen size is performed in the picture signal processing section 35 like the gestalt 1 of operation. What is necessary is just to create the picture signal processing section 35 sequentially from the buffer memory in which the decoding activity was completed and the playback picture signal was stored. And it is re-stored in each buffer memory once again after modification processing of a screen size. And a playback picture signal is transmitted to the image memory within the video-signal output means 33 etc. About the approach of generating the video signal outputted from the playback picture signal transmitted from each buffer memory, it is the same as that of the gestalt 1 of operation.

[0063] Since two or more program playbacks are possible and playback will be possible according to the configuration of the gestalt 2 of this operation to the contents of record for every program with the highly efficient single program playback means 32, without having two or more program playback means if stored in the memory according to program etc., it has the effectiveness that reduction of component part mark can be aimed at.

[0064] (Gestalt 3 of operation) Drawing 6 is the block diagram showing the fundamental configuration of the program regenerative apparatus using the program playback approach by the gestalt 3 of operation of this invention. The record medium with which 41 recorded the contents of record about two or more programs in drawing 6 , A program selection means to choose the program which reproduces 42 automatically within the input from a user, or a program regenerative apparatus, A contents read-out means of record by which 43 reads the contents of record of each program in a record medium 41, A contents distribution means of record to distribute the contents of record of two or more programs which read 44 from the contents read-out means 43 of record to the contents of record according to program, The program voice playback means A, the program voice playback means B, and the program voice playback means C which 45, and 46 and 47 consider as an input the contents of record distributed according to the program with the contents distribution means 44 of record, and reproduce voice in each 48 is a sound signal output means to generate the sound signal outputted to the equipment exterior

from the output from program voice playback means A45 grade.

[0065] The difference between the gestalt 3 of operation and the gestalt 1 of operation is the point that the contents of program playback change to voice playback from image reproduction. With the program playback means A15 and the voice playback means A45, a part of the function and contents differ from each other. The function and contents differ from each other with a video-signal output means 18 to output a video signal furthermore, and a sound signal output means 48 to output a sound signal. However, since it is the same as that of the gestalt 1 of operation about read-out of the contents of record of the selection approach of a program or each program, explanation is omitted.

[0066] The program information chosen by the program selection means 42 is told to the contents distribution means 44 of record. The contents distribution means 44 of record needs to tell information required for coincidence record playback to each means by which it is related. The distribution number which distributes two or more contents of record according to a program first is determined, and a distribution number and information required for distribution are generated. Next, compression related information, such as a compression method, is read from the contents of record of each program in a record medium 41, and initialization information is told to program voice playback means A45 grade. Furthermore, a sound signal output method is set up. As an example, an output voice method required for a sound signal output from the sound signal output means 48, the number of output terminals, and the output terminal location of a program are determined.

[0067] And by the contents read-out means 43 of record, read-out of the contents of record of each program is started from a record medium 41. If the contents of record of each program are shunted to the track buffer of this contents read-out means 43 of record temporarily and a transfer request is in it, it will transmit to the contents distribution means 44 of record. As for the contents of record transmitted to the contents distribution means 44 of record, the distribution place is specified for every program, for example, the contents of record over Program B are transmitted for the contents of record over Program A to the program voice playback means A45 at the program voice playback means B46. In each program voice playback means, it has buffer memory, and the contents of record required in order not to break off and to reproduce a program are stored. Several K bytes of this storage capacity is required of the compression method of criteria, such as a linear PCM system and a Dolby digital method. It is necessary to read each contents of record until each buffer memory of not only the program voice playback means A45 but the program voice playback means B46 or the program voice playback means C47 fills, in order to reproduce two or more programs to coincidence.

[0068] If each program is reproduced and the contents of record in the buffer memory within each program record means decrease, read-out of the following contents of record will be required respectively. It is between each program playbacks, and a synchronization is not taken, but the contents of record required for the next playback are required at the time of the need. In reproducing the contents of record of each program continuously, the contents distribution means 44 of record takes charge of the read-out command out of a record medium 41. The contents distribution means 44 of record performs all of the record positional information of each program, and the read-out sequence control of a program. The contents read-out means 43 of record is a role which reads each contents of record from a record medium 41 to a high speed by the command from the contents distribution means 44 of record. Moreover, as for the program voice playback means A45, only information actually required for playback is inputted.

[0069] Next, the contents of processing within the program voice playback means A45 are explained. Drawing 7 is the block diagram showing the example of a configuration of one program voice playback means in the program regenerative apparatus in the gestalt 3 of operation of this invention.

[0070] The program voice playback means A45 consists of the audio decoder section 52 which decodes the sound signal information compressed from the contents of record, the buffer memory section 51 which saves the contents of record, and the sound signal output section 53 which reads the decoded playback sound signal and is outputted as a continuous playback sound signal. The contents of record distributed from the contents distribution means 44 of record are

first stored in the buffer memory section 51. And the compression audio signal which are compression related information required for playback of a sound signal and a program signal for audios is read from the buffer memory section 51. In playback of a compression audio signal, a compression audio signal is elongated and decrypted using compression related information, such as audio coding methods (compression methods, such as Dolby digital, MPEG1, and MPEG 2, a linear PCM system, etc. as an example), a sampling frequency, a quantifying bit number, and the number of playback channels. The result of having decoded the compression audio signal is again stored in the buffer memory section 51. The playback sound signal with which each program was reproduced is a digital signal format etc. (the analog signal method which carried out the DA translation may be used), and is continuously outputted from the sound signal output section 53.

[0071] The sound signal output means 48 is told that the output terminal information from the contents distribution means 44 of record is the output of the digitized voice signal from each program voice playback means. As an example of output terminal information, information, such as the number of output terminals which a program regenerative apparatus has, arrangement, a setup of from which output terminal to output the playback voice of a program, and playback sound volume of each output terminal, is included. This output terminal information should just be outputted when the time of voice output initiation and the number of playback programs are changed. It is not necessary to output continuously synchronizing with a playback sound signal.

[0072] The capacity (about several K bytes) which reads the contents of record first, and the capacity (about dozens of K bytes) which stores a decoding result are required for the buffer memory section 51, and it needs the capacity of about 100 K bytes in total for one program voice playback means A45.

[0073] As an approach of transmitting the contents of record to the buffer memory section 51 from the contents distribution means 44 of record, the method (a drawing middle point line shows) which carries out transfer direct to the buffer memory section 51 may be used, and the method (a drawing solid line shows) transmitted through the audio decoder section 52 may be used. Moreover, what carried out only the compression audio signal and included the compression video signal in the compression audio signal is sufficient as the contents of record written in the buffer memory section 51. However, when both are included, the capacity of only the buffer memory which can secure both contents of record is needed. The audio decoder section 52 confirms only a compression audio signal, and performs decoding. Moreover, as an input form to the sound signal output means 48, a playback sound signal is inputted with the digital signal which synchronized with the sampling clock (for example, 48kHz) etc. And synchronizing with a sampling clock, the sound signal output means 48 performs a DA translation, after carrying out digital signal processing of the output signal transformation, such as sound-volume conversion, and it changes it into the sound signal of an analog. And the sound signal of the set-up program is outputted from the output terminal defined with the contents distribution means 44 of record.

[0074] When there are two or more terminals for those with two or more, for example, headphone, in a voice output terminal, each sound signal of the program which carries out coincidence playback can be outputted separately. It is equivalent not only a headphone output but when it has an output terminal for every program. In the case of the program regenerative apparatus which, on the other hand, has only a playback output terminal for single programs, each playback sound signal from a coincidence playback program can be added and outputted. In voice addition, about whether priority is given to which program and it reproduces (it is about sound volume), it sets up beforehand in the input of the program selection means 42, and it should just tell the sound-volume information on a playback program through the contents distribution means 44 of record. When it has the terminal connectable with two or more sorts of two or more loudspeakers, a voice output can also be distributed according to the loudspeaker of some of pinpointing of two or more loudspeakers for every program. Therefore, the voice according to program which the user set up can be outputted to coincidence.

[0075] If it is the configuration which distributes the contents of record to each program voice playback means according to program with the contents distribution means 44 of record, it is satisfactory even if it is the contents of record of a different compression method between each

program voice playback means. since each can advance a read-out demand required for playback within each program voice playback means also to the contents of record from which the compression method per unit time amount and the amount of recording information differ for every program by perform playback from the single contents of record , and output the sound signal by output terminal setup with the sound signal output means 48 from each playback sound signal -- a No. two or more group -- a limit -- there is nothing -- coincidence -- it is refreshable

[0076] When the independent voice output of a specific program is directed to coincidence from the program selection means 42 by a user's input during playback of two or more programs, read-out [/ in addition to the program which corresponds from the contents distribution means 44 of record] of the contents of record is considered as a halt. Therefore, the contents read-out means 43 of record continues playback of only the specific program which read the contents of record of only the selected program and was chosen. Only the voice of an independent program is reproduced from a voice output terminal. Playback halts others. It is convenient to reproduce only the scene of a specific program in the program under coincidence playback if it has such a function. On the other hand, playback of the halted program stands by in the condition that it can resume immediately. The program voice playback means B46 and the program voice playback means C47 which playback is suspended hold playback information, and start playback you to be Sumiya. Therefore, since program playback is resumed without redoing playback once which will be involved at first in other programs even if No. two or more group is being reproduced and it chooses playback of one program of arbitration, a user's facilities can be measured.

[0077] Moreover, the program regenerative apparatus which performs program selection which referred to compression related information among the program recording information for every program in a record medium 41 can be constituted. The program selection means 42 chooses the program of the number of specification from from with reference to program recording information among the programs recorded on the record medium 41 sequentially from that information, such as a speech compression method, is the same or a similar program. Specifically, information, such as a speech compression method, is referred to. If the compression method etc. is common to each program voice playback means, share-ization of each audio decoder processing etc. can be achieved in program playback of each program. Since it can consider as the same contents respectively, share-ization of a parameter can be achieved. Moreover, if a compression method is unified, it becomes easy to predict a decoding load and reduction-ization of the capacity of the track buffer of contents read-out means of record 42 grade etc. can be achieved.

[0078] Moreover, the program regenerative apparatus which performs program selection which referred to the voice output information about a voice output can consist of compression related information among the program recording information for every program in a record medium 41. The program selection means 42 chooses the program of the number of specification from from with reference to program recording information among the programs recorded on the record medium 41 sequentially from that information, such as a voice output method, is the same or a similar program. Specifically, information, such as a sampling frequency and a quantization bit, is referred to. If the sampling frequency etc. is common to each program voice playback means, it is convenient in case the playback sound signal by the continuous digital signal which synchronized with the sampling frequency respectively outputted from each program voice playback means is added. Addition with the analog signal which added after aiming at the synchronization of each signal, if it differed, or carried out the DA translation of each is needed. Therefore, in order for what is necessary to be just to treat the signal which synchronized with the same clock if the sampling frequency is the same, a circuitry scale ends few. Therefore, playback tone quality etc. can achieve reduction-ization of equipment cost, without dropping. In addition, the same is said of a quantifying bit number, and if the quantifying bit numbers of two or more programs differ, the processing united with the smallest quantifying bit number is needed.

[0079] Moreover, the terminal which outputs the sound signal outputted from the sound signal output means 48 with the digital signal of the bit stream format to which it was set by IEC958

can also be prepared. If the voice output conditions of each program do not change to the amplifier side connected to this terminal between the programs under coincidence playback, even if it changes the music playback program to reproduce on the way, playback can be continued without changing a setup by the side of the connected amplifier. the kill at the time of the program change by modification of a sampling frequency etc. -- generating of a sound etc. can be pressed down.

[0080] Furthermore, the configuration explained with the gestalt 2 of operation is applicable also to audio playback. The contents distribution means of record distributes the contents of record according to a program, and it transmits to the buffer memory according to program. Time sharing of the regeneration is carried out within a program voice playback means, and the playback sound signal of a single program is generated from each buffer memory within division time amount. However, in order to output continuously the sound signal which synchronized with the sampling frequency of each program at the time of a voice output, it is necessary to prepare two or more sound signal output sections. Then, if it has two or more sound signal output sections, each playback sound signal can be outputted to coincidence.

[0081] On the other hand, when there is only the one sound signal output section and it cannot output the playback sound signal of two or more programs in a program voice playback means at coincidence, only the playback sound signal over one specific program is confirmed. A voice output is performed only about one program in under playback to coincidence by considering the confirmed playback sound signal as an input, and outputting a sound signal from the output terminal set up with the sound signal output means 48. An audio output is not carried out about other playback programs in the meantime. However, it is not concerned with the buffer memory corresponding to each program at the existence of a voice output, but considers as the configuration which stores the playback sound signal which always decoded the newest recording information. Then, the program regenerative apparatus suitable for applications, such as a comparison audition of the voice under coincidence playback, etc. can be offered by carrying out coincidence playback of two or more music recorded on the same record medium 41 at once, and reproducing to coincidence each compression audio signal compressed and recorded by the application which discovers music to change playback music one after another, and listen to it, and different coding method to the same music source.

[0082] In addition, although the example of image reproduction and the example of voice playback have been explained separately, it is applicable similarly to an image program with voice. The configuration which has both the video decoder section and the audio decoder section for each program playback means in addition to the buffer memory section for every program (the capacity which can treat both a compression audio signal and a compression video signal is the need), and has the picture signal processing section and the sound signal output section, then coincidence program playback of an image and voice are attained.

[0083] Furthermore, when reproducing DVD-ROM with which it is satisfied of DVD video specification as a record medium to reproduce, the configuration which lays the screen which carried out subpicture decoding on top of each screen which in addition to the video decoder section and the audio decoder section prepared for every program like [section / which decodes information, such as a title, / subpicture decoder] the video decoder section, and carried out video decoding, then correspondence are easy. In addition, the configuration which prepares the real-time text decoder section which displays words etc. further, and the still picture decoder section for every program, then correspondence are possible also for the disk with which are satisfied of DVD audio specification.

[0084] (Gestalt 4 of operation) Drawing 8 is the block diagram showing the processing about No. two or more group playback list which reads each program among the configurations of the program regenerative apparatus using the program playback approach by the gestalt 4 of operation of this invention. The record medium with which 61 recorded the contents of record about two or more programs in drawing 8 , A program selection means to choose the program which reproduces 62 within the input from a user, or a program regenerative apparatus, A contents read-out means of record by which 63 reads the contents of record of each program in a record medium 61, A contents distribution means of record to distribute the contents of

record of two or more programs which read 64 from the contents read-out means 63 of record to the contents of record according to program, the program recording information by which 65 was recorded in the record medium 61, and 66 read the contents of the program recording information 65. It is a No. two or more group playback list generation means to generate the playback list of [for reproducing No. two or more group efficiently to coincidence]. In addition, since the point which generates the signal which distributes the contents of record according to a program, reproduces for every program with a program playback means etc. (not shown), and is outputted with a video-signal output means etc. is the same as that of the gestalt 1 grade of operation, the contents distribution means 64 of record omits explanation.

[0085] Drawing 9 is a flow chart which shows the processing actuation at the time of the early stages of the program playback approach concerning the gestalt 4 of operation of this invention. Drawing 10 is a flow chart which shows the processing actuation at the time of program playback advance of the program playback approach concerning the gestalt 4 of operation.

[0086] The difference between the gestalt 4 of operation and the gestalt 1 of operation is the point of generating the playback list which reads beforehand the program recording information 65 of each program in a record medium 61, and can reproduce two or more programs efficiently beforehand to two or more programs to reproduce. In the explanation within the gestalt 1 of operation, in playback of each program, while the contents distribution means 14 of record read the contents of record of each program, the following playback list information etc. was read and judged and it was distributing for every contents of record each time (step S107 reference of drawing 2). In carrying out coincidence playback of two or more programs, it was the configuration of processing separately the information on each program read to coincidence.

[0087] With the gestalt 4 of operation, before reading and distributing the contents of record of each program, the playback list about (step S138, step S139), and the program to reproduce [two or more] is generated. each playback list information of each program is first read from the program recording information 65 (step S136). And No. two or more group playback list which carries out coincidence playback is generated (step S137). It determines of which program the contents of record should be read from the contents of the generated No. two or more group coincidence playback list, and the procedure which reads the contents of record of each program is started.

[0088] It hits going on playback of each program, and it is necessary to update or change the contents of the No. two or more group playback list. It is necessary to perform modification and the addition of the contents of the No. two or more group playback list which had been created at the time of modification of the number of playback programs by a demand of a user or termination of the number of playback programs, and termination of the list information currently created beforehand. The existence of generating of an addition or modification is judged (step S151), and it is necessary to read the program recording information 65 at the time of the need, and to change or add No. two or more group generation list at it (step S153). Henceforth, the contents of record of each program are read according to the contents of the changed No. two or more group playback list in addition (step S154 or subsequent ones).

[0089] The example of structure of No. two or more group playback list is explained. First, the playback list information about one program consists of program chains which are the playback information which determines the playback sequence of the playback logical unit cel which reproduces each program as it was explained within the gestalt 1 of operation. Each program chain stores the positional information of a playback cel etc., and storing positional information, playback time amount, etc. of the picture signal for playback of each program or a sound signal are dedicated to each cel. Then, if each playback list information on the program reproduced to coincidence is acquired, information, such as playback time amount, the information about a storing location, etc. are read from the information on each program chain and each program is read in what kind of sequence, it will compute whether it becomes efficient. If the storing location in a record medium 64 reads to the track buffer etc. continuously closely, the method of read-out whose futility decreases, the read-out sequence of the efficient program chain by the playback hour entry of each program, etc. will be determined, and No. two or more group playback list information which includes the playback list information on two or more programs

will be independently generated newly with the playback list of each programs.

[0090] Since read-out according to the coincidence playback list on condition of carrying out the coincidence playback of the No. two or more group by generating a No. two or more group playback list, and reading two or more contents of record from the contents read-out means 63 of record according to the generated No. two or more group playback list from program recording information, in order to carry out the coincidence playback of two or more selected programs with the gestalt 4 of this operation can perform, it has the effectiveness that it can access to a record medium efficiently.

[0091] furthermore, the contents conclusion ***** of record of each program by which does not read only the contents of record of a certain program collectively, but coincidence playback is carried out as another configuration -- it can also constitute like. The contents read-out means 63 of record is read in the form where the contents of record of each program were summarized, and is transmitted to the contents distribution means 64 of record at a high speed. In order to transmit two or more programs collectively, the device for identifying the contents of record of each program is performed. For example, the contents of record which consist of the contents of record of each program and information for discernment transmit. As an example of identification information, an identification code is added according to the contents of record, or the approach of exchanging recognition signals before a transfer of the contents of record of each program is taken. And it constitutes so that it may distribute to the contents of record for every program according to identification information. These are examples of implementation which time improvement in the speed further about read-out and a transfer.

[0092] According to the gestalt of operation of this invention, the contents of record of two or more programs currently recorded are read to coincidence above. Have a program playback means to reproduce the read signal for every program, and the playback information on each reproduced program to origin The program regenerative apparatus which realizes the program playback approach that it was suitable for the coincidence playback in which the dual output of the voice of No. two or more group according to coincidence playback and a voice output terminal is possible in the image of No. two or more group on the same screen can be offered.

[0093]

[Effect of the Invention] In reproducing two or more programs to coincidence as mentioned above according to this invention, the contents of record of No. two or more grouping are read. In order to determine coincidence playback conditions, such as the number of programs reproduced to coincidence, to distribute the contents of record according to a program, to generate each regenerative signal according to the contents of record divided according to the program and to generate an output signal according to coincidence playback conditions, Performing the playback check of No. two or more group to coincidence can offer the program regenerative apparatus which can be performed easily and which realizes the program playback approach of having strengthened the regenerative function.

[Translation done.]

(11) 特許出願公開番号
特開2001-94906
(P2001-94906A)
(43) 公開日 平成13年4月6日 (2001.4.6)

(19) 日本国特許庁 (J P) (12) 公開特許公報 (A)

(51) IntCl.		F I		備考記号		フィード(参考)	
H04N	5/76	H04N	5/76	G11B	19/02	A	5C023
G11B	19/02	G11B	19/02	G11B	19/02	501Q	5C052
						501E	5C053
						321Z	5D044
						5D066	

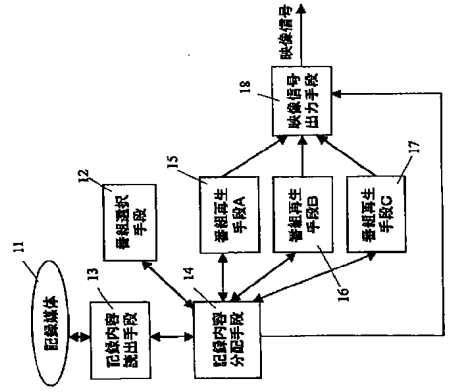
(21) 出願番号	特願平11-288616	(71) 出願人	00005821	松下電器産業株式会社	大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地	松下電器産業株式会社	大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地	松本 和生	松下電器産業株式会社内	100097445	(74) 代理人	弁理士 岩橋 文雄 (外2名)
(22) 出願日	平成11年9月22日 (1999.9.22)	(72) 発明者		藤本 和生	大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地	松下電器産業株式会社						

(54) 【発明の名称】 番組再生装置及び番組再生方法

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 高速に複数番組の記録内容を読み出して番組毎に分配し、番組再生を行うことにより、同時に複数番組を再生する番組再生装置及び方法を提供することを目的とする。

【解決手段】 同時再生する番組を複数選択する番組選択手段12と、複数の番組に関する記録内容を読み出す記録内容配分手段13と、読み出した複数の番組の記録内容を番組別に分配する記録内容分配手段14と、番組再生手段A15等と、番組再生手段A15等からの出力から装置外部に出力する映像信号を生成する映像信号出力手段18とを備え、同時再生数によって分割数と表示イジズを変更し、複数番組を同一画面で同時再生を行う。



【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、放送番組等を番組別に記録した記録媒体の再生時において、複数番組を同時に同一画面内で再生する番組再生装置及び番組再生方法に関するものである。

【0 0 0 2】

【従来の技術】近年、放送番組等の映像信号及び音声信号を記録媒体に記録し、記録した番組を再生する番組再生装置として、ビデオテープレコーダ（以下VTRと略）等が普及している。また記録密度の増大にも応じ、ハードディスクや光ディスク等の記録媒体に圧縮信号により、任意の番組等の映像信号の増大にも応じ、VTR等では放送番組を受信して磁気テープに記録したあとで磁気テープに記録された信号を読み出して記録番組を再生する。また同時に発生する複数のデータを同時に1本の記録テープに記録し、記録されている複数のデータから任意の組み合わせで同時に再生される発明も考案されているが、この発明では、別々に記録されたデータを任意の組み合わせで同時に再生することは困難である。

【0 0 0 3】そこで、任意の複数のデータを再生するための装置として、例えば特開平1 0 - 3 2 7 3 8 3号公報に記載された複数データ記録再生装置（図示せず）が考案されている。この複数データ記録再生装置の再生処理は、映像信号等を高度に圧縮して高密度に記録できるメディアであるDVD（Digital Versatile Disc）と呼ばれるディスクのなかで、何度も読み書きのできるDVD-RAM等の記録媒体を用い、複数の番組データで再生するために交互に使用する各番組データ毎の2つのメモリの組みを設ける。複数の番組データの同時再生にあたり、データの読み出し区間と再生回路への書き出し区間を設ける。そして、記録媒体の任意の位置から、同時に再生数以上のクロックタイミングを発生してそのタイミングに合わせて1方の組みのメモリへ読み込みを行い、データ読み込み中でもないもう1組のメモリからデータを再生回路に書き出して転送することにより、任意の複数のデータの同時再生を行うものである。

【0 0 0 4】また上記公報の例では同時に複数番組を記録する手段も有しており、同時記録数以上のクロックタイミングにあわせて記録媒体に対して複数番組を記録でき、この同時に書き込んだ複数の番組から任意の複数の番組の再生を可能とするものである。

【0 0 0 5】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら上記従来構成は、任意の複数のデータ再生にあたって、2組目のメモリを用いて、同時再生数以上のクロックタイミングを発生させてデータの読み出しや、表示回路への書き出しを行っていた。これは、単位時間あたりの記録信号量の異なる（圧縮方式や圧縮比率の異なる）映像信号からなる複数番組の再生を考慮したものでなく、上記公報のように記録時において複数の番組に対して同一クロ

ックタイミングによる記録時間で記録を行った複数の番組から、同時に任意の複数の番組再生をはかるものであった。従って、記録する番組によって、高解像度単位時間あたりの記録信号量の多い番組と、長時間記録を行い単位時間あたりの記録信号量の少ない番組等を同時に再生するときには、同時再生数以上からなるクロックタイミングからなるデータの読み出しでは、一方で必要なデータの読み出し不足が発生する可能性があり、単位時間あたりの記録信号量が異なる番組の複数同時再生には適用が難しいという問題点があった。

【0 0 0 6】本発明は、上記従来の問題点を解決するもので、記録媒体に記録された圧縮比率等の異なる複数の番組から同時に再生できる番組を選択して、各々の番組内容を別々のタイミングで読み出し、番組別に記録した内容を分配した各々記録番組に対して圧縮信号の伸張再生を行うため、利用者が記録圧縮比率等を考慮せずとも、任意の複数の番組を同時にみながら特定のシーンを等々見逃さない再生を行うことができる利便性を活かした装置を提供することを目的とする。

【0 0 0 7】

【課題を解決するための手段】この目的を達成するために本発明の番組再生装置は、再生番組を選択する番組選択手段と、記録媒体から通常再生速度の倍速以上で記録内容を読み出す記録内容読み出し手段と、読み出した前記記録内容を番組別に分配した記録内容分配手段と、分配された前記記録内容に基づいて再生画像信号を生成する番組再生手段と、生成された前記再生画像信号から同一画面領域内に同時再生する映像信号を生成する映像信号出力手段とからなり、複数の番組から再生番組を選択して、番組別に記録した内容を分配した各々記録番組の伸張再生を行った結果から同一画面内に映し出す映像信号を出力する番組再生装置を構成できる。

【0 0 0 8】

【発明の実施の形態】本発明の第1の発明は、再生番組を選択する番組選択手段と、記録媒体から通常再生速度の倍速以上で記録内容を読み出す記録内容読み出し手段と、読み出した前記記録内容を番組別に分配した記録内容分配手段と、分配された前記記録内容に基づいて再生画像信号を生成する番組再生手段と、生成された前記再生画像信号から同一画面領域内に同時再生する映像信号を生成する映像信号出力手段とを備えるもので、複数の番組から再生番組を選択して、番組別に記録した内容から各々記録番組の伸張再生を行った結果から同一画面内に映し出す映像信号を出力するため、同時に同一画面での複数番組の再生確認を行うことができるという作用を有する。

【0 0 0 9】本発明の第2の発明は、第1の発明に従属する発明であって、記録内容分配手段により番組別に再生する番組再生手段に記録内容を分配し、各々の前記番組

再生手段内で単一の記録内容を再生して分配数に合わせた画面サイズ変更処理を施した再生画像信号を出力することにより、複数の番組再生手段をもつことによって独立に番組再生はかけられるので、番組ごとに単位時間あたりの圧縮比や記録情報量の異なる記録内容に対しては再生可能であるため、複数番組の同時再生の制限が少ないという作用を有する。

【0 0 1 0】本発明の第3の発明は、第1の発明に従属する発明であって、記録内容分配手段により番組別に記録内容を分配し、番組再生手段内で再生処理を時間分割し、分割時間内で単一の記録内容を再生し、分配数に合わせた画面サイズ変更処理を施した再生画像信号を出力することにより、各々の記録内容を番組別のメモリ等に格納しさえすれば高機能な単一の番組再生手段で複数の番組再生が可能である。従って構成部品点数の削減をはかることができ、複数の番組再生手段をもつことなく番組毎の記録内容に対して再生ができるという作用を有する。

【0 0 1 1】本発明の第4の発明は、第2及び第3の発明に従属する発明であって、同時に複数個の番組を再生する際に、番組選択手段により特定番組の単独表示による再生が選択された時に、記録内容読み出し手段から選択されていない番組に対する記録内容の読み出しを一時停止とすることにより、選択された特定画面のみの再生を解除すれば、すぐに他の一時停止してある番組の再生を再開できるとい作用を有する。

【0 0 1 2】本発明の第5の発明は、第2及び第3の発明に従属する発明であって、同時に複数個の番組を再生する際に、記録内容分配手段が再生中の番組の終了を検知するときに、記録内容分配手段が再生中の番組の終了を検知するに行い前記映像信号出力手段が終了した番組の表示を取り止めることにより、同時再生数減少による番組の再生が終了処理と、同時再生番組数の減少による各々の再生画面サイズの変更を自動的に行うことができるという作用を有する。

【0 0 1 3】本発明の第6の発明は、第2及び第3の発明に従属する発明であって、記録内容読み出し手段が同一番組に対して一定時間間隔で複数回同時に読み出して再生しているときに、番組選択手段により特定の表示画面を選択すれば、前記記録内容分配手段が選択されていない他の読み出しと分配を停止し、前記映像信号出力手段が選択された番組の映像信号のみを出力することにより、ある番組内で特定のシーンを探し、そこから再生を行いたいような場合、特定のシーンが見つければそのシーンから再生する画面のみを有効にすることができるという作用を有する。

【0 0 1 4】本発明の第7の発明は、再生番組を選択する番組選択手段と、記録媒体から通常再生速度の倍速以上で記録内容を読み出す記録内容読み出し手段と、読み出した前記記録内容を番組別に分配した記録内容分配手段

と、分配された前記記録内容に基づいて再生音声信号を生成する番組再生手段と、生成された前記再生音声信号を入力しと出力設定を行った音声信号を出力する音声信号出力手段とを備えるもので、複数の番組から再生番組を選択して、番組別に記録内容を分配した各々記録番組の再生を行い番組再生装置にある音声出力端子から、利用者が設定した番組別の音声を同時に出力できるという作用を有する。

【0 0 1 5】本発明の第8の発明は、第7の発明に従属する発明であって、記録内容分配手段により番組別の番組再生手段に記録内容を分配し、各々の前記番組再生手段内で単一の記録内容から再生を行うことにより、番組ごとに単位時間あたりの圧縮方式、圧縮比や記録情報量の異なる記録内容に対して、各々が再生に必要な読み出し要求を出せるため、複数番組の同時再生の制限が少ないという作用を有する。

【0 0 1 6】本発明の第9の発明は、第7の発明に従属する発明であって、記録内容分配手段により番組別に記録内容を分配し、番組再生手段内で再生処理を時間分割し、分割時間内で単一の記録内容から各々の再生音声信号を生成して、特定の番組に対する前記再生音声信号のみを有効することにより、同時に再生されている番組のうちの1つの番組についての音声出力を行い、他の再生番組についてはその間音声出力なしを行うことができるので、同時再生中の各番組の音声を確実に聞かせる比較試験等を実現しやすいという作用を有する。

【0 0 1 7】本発明の第1 0の発明は、第8及び第9の発明に従属する発明であって、同時に複数個の番組の再生時において、番組選択手段により特定番組の単独再生が選択された時に、記録内容分配手段が選択されなかった記録内容の読み出しと分配を一時中止し、音声信号出力手段からの音声出力を取りやめて選択された特定の音声出力に切り替えることにより、選択された特定番組のみの再生を中止すれば、すぐに他の一時停止してある番組の再生を再開できるという作用を有する。

【0 0 1 8】本発明の第1 1の発明は、第1及び第7の発明に従属する発明であって、記録媒体に番組毎の番組記録情報を有し、番組選択手段が選択された複数の番組を同時再生するために前記番組記録情報から複数番組再生リストを生成し、生成された前記複数番組再生リストに従って、記録内容読み出し手段から複数の記録内容を読み出すことにより、複数番組を同時再生することによって、同時再生リストに従った読み出しができるため、列挙よく記録媒体にアクセスできるという作用を有する。

【0 0 1 9】本発明の第1 2の発明は、第1の発明に従属する発明であって、記録媒体に番組毎の番組記録情報を有し、番組選択手段が記録媒体に記録された番組のうちから、前記番組記録情報を参照し表示画像情報が一しくは類似した番組から順に特定数の番組を選択することにより、各番組の番組再生にあたり表示画像情報の

共有化と画像処理の共有化はかかれるために、番組再生の負荷の低減や各々の番組再生に必要な作業メモリ量の低減をはかれるという作用を有する。

【00020】本発明の第1.3の発明は、第7の発明に從属する発明であつて、記録媒体に番組毎の番組記録情報（番組再生履歴情報）を有し、前記番組再生履歴が記録媒体に記録された番組を有し、前記記録媒体の情報圧縮率を参照し音声圧縮率が0.7のうちから、前記番組再生履歴情報と参照した番組の圧縮率と同一もしくは類似した番組から順に特定数の番組を選択することにより、各番組の再生に再生に於たり圧縮方式等々の相違による番組再生用の信号処理の違いをなくすることのできるため、番組再生の負荷の低減がはかれるという作用を有する。

【0021】本発明の第1の発明は、第7の発明に於いて、登録媒体に番組組の番組組記憶情報に属する発明であって、登録媒体に記録された番組組を有し、前記番組組記憶情報から特定の番組組を選択する手段が登録媒体を参照し音声出力情報を同一もしくは類似した番組組から順に特定数の番組組を選択するとともに、同時にその音楽再生番組組を切り替えたときにも、接続されたアンテナ側の変更することなく再生を続けられるという作用を有する。

【0022】本発明の第1の実施形態は、番組に関する記録内容（番組表）を記録した記録媒体の再生時において、複数の番組組を同時に再生する番組再生方法であって、同時に再生する番組組毎の同時再生条件を決定し、複数の番組組分の記録内容を読み出して番組組に前記記録内容を分配し、番組組別に分けられた記録内容に宛いた各々の再生信号を生成し、前記各々の再生信号を入力とし前記同時再生条件に従って出力信号を生成するもので、複数の番組組から再生番組を選択し、番組組に記録内容を分配した各々記録番組の再生を行なった結果から再生信号を出力するため、番組組に複数の番組組の再生確認を行うことが容易に行なえるという作用を有する。

【0023】本発明の第16の発明は、第15の発明に従属する有って、前記記憶媒体に番組毎の番組識別情報として、前記番組識別情報から生成した番組の番組の再生するための複数の複数再生リストを生成し、生成された前記複数番組再生リストに従って、前記記憶媒体内容を再生することにより、複数番組を同時再生することを前提とすると同時に、複数番組を同時再生し出すが、再生のため、同時に同時再生リストに従って読み出しが作用するため、効率よく記憶媒体にアクセスできるといって作用を有する。

【0024】以下、本発明の実施の形態について、図面を用いて説明する。

【0025】（実施の形態1）図1は本発明の実施の形態1による蓄積再生方法を用いる蓄積再生装置の基本構成を示すブロック図である。図1において、11は復元の蓄積に関する記録内容を記録した記憶媒体、12は利用者の番組からの入力もしめる蓄積再生装置内で自動的に再生する蓄積を選択する蓄積選択手段、13は記録媒体11内の各番組の記録内容を読み出す記録内容読出手段、1

番組に指定される。もちろん各番組に対してサブタイトル名、番組制作会社名等の詳細な感情情報がある場合はそれぞれを表示され、番組選好率として導出できる構成でもかまわない。ここでは単一の番組の再生だけではなく、複数の番組の同時再生を前提として説明する。番組選択手段 1.2 によって、利用者は再生可能な番組から複数の番組を選択する（ステップ S102）。

【0031】記録内コンテンツ手段14は、番組選択手段12から選択された番組情報を獲得し、同時記録再生に必要な情報を関連する各手段に伝える。まず複数の記録内コンテンツ番組別に分配する分配数を決定する（ステップS1003）。例えば分配数や分配に必要な情報を生成する。

次に記録媒体 1 1 内の各番組の記録内容から圧縮方式等の圧縮関連情報を読み出し、再生に必要な初期設定情報を番組再生手段 A 1 5 等に伝える (ステップ S10)。

4) さらに再生番線数と各番組の圧縮関連情報から、映像信号出力手段 1 8 に、映像信号出力に必要な画面サイズや画面分割数と各番組の出力位置等の映像信号出力方式情報を設定する (ステップ S105)。

【0032】各番組の再生に関する情報及び圧縮関連情報
報は、番組記録情報を読み出して獲得できる。再生に關

する情報を再生リスト情報に定義する。1番組について、再生リスト情報は、各番組の再生論理単位セルの再生順序を決定する情報を格納するプログラムチェーン構成を決定する。このプログラムチェーンの情報には、このプログラムチェーンを用いて再生開始時間、再生期間やプログラムチェーンへの続き情報、各セルの格納位置情報等が納められている。各セルには各番組の再生に必要な圧縮ビデオ信号や音声データ・オーディオ信号等がなされる。記録情報の格納位置情報や再生時間情報等が納められている。

【0033】そして記録再生手段13により、記録媒体11から各番組の記録内容の格納位置が伝えられ、読み出しが開始される（ステップS106）。この記録内容出力手段13には「マスタックバック」とよばれる一時待用出力メモリを有し、一度トラックバンプに記録内容を読み出したあとで、記録内容分配手段14に転送する。記録内容分配手段14に転送された記録内容は、番組毎組に分け先が特定され、例えば番組Aに対する記録内容は番組再生手段A15に、番組Bに対する記録内容は番組再生手段B16に送られる（ステップS1

を
07)。記録内容分配手段4は、各番組の記録内容を
読み込み、その都度、再生手段1に情報を推送し、複数の番組の
うち、次の記録内容の読み出し位置を確認する。複数の番組
の再生を同時再生するが、同時に読み出す各番組再生手段内に
て、番組別に対応して再生手段1に情報を送り、各番組再生手段
の再生のために必要となる記録内容を格納する。この記録内容
はMPEG2ビデオの標準の圧縮方式では数百キロバイト、

1 1 4は記録内容読出手段1 3から読み出した複数の番組の記録内容に番組別の記録内容に分配する記録内容分配手段、1 5と1 6及び1 7は記録内容分配手段1 4で番組別に分配された記録内容を入力し及び各々で再生を行う再生手段Aと番組再生手段B及び番組再生手段C、1 1 8は番組再生手段A 1 5等の出力及び装置外部への映像信号を生成する映像信号出力手段である。

【0026】記録媒体11には、ハードディスク等の磁気記録メディア、光磁気記録メディア等いろいろな種類の媒体と、またテープ状の媒体やディスク状の媒体もある。記録媒体11ここでは、従来例と同様にDVD-RAMで説明する。DVD-RAMとは異なった記録媒体11についてはあとで説明する。

【0027】記録媒体11へ記録される番組の代表例として放送信号である。これに伝送信号や光や同軸ケーブル、放送信号などの放送形態の信号を含む。また電話線や専用回線等を用いたインターネット等によるネットワーク形状の信号を含む。番組再生装置側から、番組再生装置側へ1対1で発信される信号も含む。番組再生装置側から、番組が発信される地点から、番組情報として受けることのできる信号や受信番号として、チューナー装置であったり、モデム装置であったり、多重化された受信機であったり、番組によって受信信号受信処理がなされる。データの復号化装置によって受信信号が復号化される。

受信データは、信号圧縮され、記録媒体 11 に記録される。記録媒体 11 内に記録できる記録内容に変換される。記録媒体 11 内に記録できる記録容量には限りがあるため、信号圧縮し、記録情報量を削減することによって、長時間の記録を実現している。

【0028】記録媒体11には、番組信号と、記録番組内容に関する番組記録情報が記録内容として記録されている。番組記録情報には、たとえば番組記録開始時刻

や、記録期間等の時間情報、放送局名（もしくはは受信チャンネル名）、記録番組名が含まれる。さらに映像及び音声の信号を圧縮して記録する場合においては、圧縮された番組信号に、信号圧縮形式、圧縮ビデオ信号の圧縮モード、画像解像度、アスペクト比（16：9もしくは4：3等の画面比率）、表示モード形式（パンスキャミングやレターボックス）、想定している画面出力形式（水平解像度525本もしくは625本等）、圧縮オーディオ信号のオーディオ符号化モード、音声のサンプリング周波数、量子化ビット数、オーディオチャネル数等の圧縮縮減連関係も含まれる。さらに、再生時の増幅制限情報や、再生回数、最新の再生日時等の情報を番組記録情報に加えることとて説明する効果を得ることができ。

【0029】図2を参照して、本発明の実施の形態1における番組再生方法について具体例を挙げて説明する。図2は、本発明の実施の形態1に係る番組再生方法の動作開始時の処理動作を示すフローチャートである。

【0030】記録媒体11内の番組記録情報参照して（ステップS101）、各番組の情報を獲得する。再生番組を決定する際に、番組記録情報である放送時間情報と記憶番組名（放送チャネル情報や放送局名）等が画面

デコードした結果は、パップファメモリ部21に再び格納される。映像出力としてNTSC方式の出力を想定すれば、1秒間に約30枚の画像を生成する必要がある。まず最初の1枚の画面のデコード処理がなされる(ステップS121)。

【0037】同時番組再生数が1であれば、パップファメモリ部21に格納された再生画像信号をそのまま映像信号出力手段18に出力すればよい。しかし同時番組再生数が増数である場合は、画面サイズを変更する(ステップS122)。これは同一画面に複数の再生画面を表示するため、各々の画面サイズを縮小する必要があるからである。例えば、同時に4番組を再生し、各画面が重ならないように表示するには、縦と横の表示領域をそれぞれ半分とし、面積で4分の1の画面サイズに変更する。その垂直方向は、走査線の間引きを行うことによって実現する。この垂直方向の間引きに際し、垂直信号に対してローパスフィルタ等からなる垂直フィルタを用いて、折り返しスベクトルやフリッカ妨害を防ぐ。一方、水平方向については、ローパスフィルタからなる水平フィルタを介したあとにデータの間引きことでも実現できるが、画面が構成するパップファメモリ部21の一部をフィールドメモリにて構成し、書き込みクロックと読み出しクロックの周波数を変え、水平フィルタを介したあとにデータの書き込みを行い、書き込みに対して読み出しを高速におこなうことによってデータ圧縮をする方法もある。このような方法で映像信号処理部23にて画面サイズ等の変更処理を行う(ステップS123)。

【0038】変更された再生画像信号は、画像信号処理部23から映像信号出力手段18へ出力される(ステップS124)。なお、再生画像信号が出力される前に記録内容が再生手段14から映像出力情報が映像信号出力手段18に伝えられる。映像出力情報の例として、同一画面内での出力位置、出力サイズ、出力の有無、複数番組の重ね合わせ優先度等の情報を含む。この映像出力情報は、必要時にのみ出力される構成とし、最初の表示時や再生番組数が変更されるとき等にも出力される。再生画像信号と同期して絶えず出力する必要はない。まず最初の1画面表示までに映像出力情報が出力されれば、各画面が重ならないように画面サイズを変更する方法、代表の1画面は標準サイズで表示し残りの画面を小画面サイズとして表画面に重ね合わせる方法、同時再生番組数に対し再生画面の一部の重ね合わせを許して表示する方法等がある。番組選択手段12にて複数番組の画面の表示方法も選択して、記録内容分配手段14から選択された表示方法から各表示位置や画面サイズに関する情報を各番組再生手段や映像信号出力手段18に伝える構成としてもよい。

【0039】パップファメモリ部21には、最初に記録内容を読み込む容量(数百キロバイト程度)と、圧縮ビデオ信号によって、番組選択手段12から特定番組の単独表示力によって、番組選択手段12から特定番組の単独表示

【0043】複数の番組再生手段は、1番組を再生する半導体を複数個並べた回路から構成し、再生画像信号を出力する構成とすることができる。また複数の番組を個々に再生できる回路と、各々の画像サイズの変換、さらに映像信号出力手段18の同一画面に複数番組の各画面を重ね合わせる回路までを1つの画像処理用半導体内に蔵することもできる。この画像処理用半導体に必要なメモリを、外付けもしくは内蔵する構成とすれば、複数番組再生装置を小型で実現することが可能である。

【0044】同時に複数の番組の再生中に、利用者の入力をによって、番組選択手段12から特定番組の単独表示

が指示された時には、記録内容分配手段14から該当する番組以外に対する記録内容の読み出しを一時的停止とする。従って記録内容読出手段13は選択された番組の記録内容のみを読み出す。そして選択された特定番組のみの再生を続ける。画面表示は再生画面の単独表示に変更するか、もしくは複数画面中で選択画面のみ再生を続け、他は一時的な静止画面状態で表示が行えるように構成する。このような機能を有すれば、同時再生中の番組で特定の番組のシーンのみ注目したいときに便利である。一方で一時停止された番組の再生はすくなくでも一時停止できるように状態を待機する。再生を一時停止している番組再生手段B16や番組再生手段C17は、一時停止時の画面情報を保持し、一時停止が解除されれば、次の画面からすくなく再生を開始する。従って複数番組の再生中で、任意の番組の再生を選択しても、他の番組の最初からもう一度見直すことなく番組再生を再開するため、利用者の便宜をはかることができる。

【0045】さらに、同時に複数通の番組の再生中に、再生中の1つの番組の再生が終了したときを説明する。一例として、再生リスト情報から記録内容分配手段14がある番組Aの再生終了(記録情報の終了検知等)を検知した場合には、番組再生手段A15への記録内容の分配が終了することを通知する。そして記録内容読出手段13から該当番組に関する読み出しを終了させる。さらに残りの同時再生数にあわせ画面分割数の変更を行い映像信号出力手段18が終了した番組の表示を取り止める。これらの作業を番組再生の終了とともに自動的に行うために、利用者は同時再生数の減少で番組の再生が終了したことを認識することができる。さらに、残りの同時再生数で画面分割サイズ等の変更を行うことも可能である。

【0046】同時に複数再生するには複数番組であるとは限らない。同一番組に対し、特定のシーンを見つけだしそこから通常の再生を行いたいという要求もある。例えば前回途中まで見たが、どこまで見たか各シーンをみながら思い出すといった例である。このような場合、記録内容分配手段14が、分配数等を設定し、読み出し時間間隔を定める。そして記録内容読出手段13が同一番組に対して一定時間間隔で複数回数同時に読み出す要求を行う。従って、一定の時間間隔で再生する場合においても、別の番組を再生しているときと同様の処理を行うことで容易に実現できる。そして特定のシーンが見つかり番組選択手段12により特定の表示画面を選択すれば、他の再生は必要がないと判断され、記録内容読出手段14からの他の読み出しを停止する。そして該当する番組再生手段A15のみの再生が有効となり、映像信号出力手段18が選択された画面の映像信号のみを出力する構成とすれば所望の機能を実現することができる。

【0047】DVD-RAMは、映画番組等の映像や音

声情報を圧縮して記録して市販されているパッケージメディアのDVD-ROM(読み出しのみのDVD)と違い、何度読み書きできるものである。ディスクはテープと異なり、ランダムアクセスが行いやすく、検索後の頭出し等が著早くできたり、順序よく記録しなくても再生時に順序を並べ替えて連続性を保ちながら再生する再生性に優れている。もちろん記録媒体11には、パーソナルコンピュータ等がよく使われるハードディスクなども使用することができる。ただし固定されたハードディスク等の書き込み不可能、もしくは複製に手間のかかる記録媒体11の場合は、記録容量に制限があり、多数の番組を記録するためには、複製可能な記録媒体11を使用するほうが、記録容量の制限がなくなり便利である。また書き込みが1度だけ許される記録媒体11(たとえばD-RやDVD-R等)も利用することができる。本発明は、DVD-ROMのような読み出し専用媒体、DV D-Rのように1回だけ書き込みを許す媒体にも有効であるが、DVD-RAMやハードディスク等の何度でも読み書きできる記録媒体11に最も有効である。複製を行うことが必要な用途においてはハードディスクにも適用可能であるが、複製可能なDVD-RAMのディスクまたは複製可能なムーブブルハードディスクが、番組を記録し、再生できるという目的には適している。

【0048】記録媒体11からの読み出し速度について説明する。ハードディスク等のインタフェース規格は、UltraATA等の規格があり、UltraDMAのモード2を用いれば最大転送速度は1秒あたり33.3メガバイト(1秒あたり約260メガビット)となる。一方DVD-ROMドライブも高速化がはかれる。DVD以上の再生速度を有するドライブも登場してきた。倍速以上されるMPG2の圧縮方式をもつ番組の圧縮信号の平均再生速度を1秒あたり4メガビットとすると、8倍速だと1秒あたり32メガビットに相当する。さらに、各々の番組を再生する再生速度は最高で1秒あたり10メガビット程度以下である。複数の番組を再生するにあたっては、UltraDMAのモード2等のインタフェース仕様を用いれば十分余裕がある。読み出した記録内容を書き出すバッファメモリをSDRAM等の高速にアクセスできるメモリとし、16ビットバスで構成すればバイト換算で1秒あたり数百メガバイトで読み書きでき、アクセス速度に問題には発生しない。DV D-ROMドライブと同様に、DVD-RAMで再生するドライブについて高速化がはかられるため、複数番組を同時再生できることが想定される。なおハードディスクにMPG2等で圧縮した番組を記録し、複数同時再生する場合においては、数十メガビットでの読み出しが可能であるため、DVD-RAMの番組の記録内容を一度ハードディスクや大量の半導体メモリ等に書き込んで読み出すことによって複数の番組の記録内容を同時に読み出すドライブを構成することが

できる。もちろんハードディスクだけでも、複数の番組を高速に読み出すことができる。

【0049】以上1台のドライブに格納された1枚の記録媒体11から、複数の番組を同時再生について説明してきたが、複数のドライブで構成すれば、さらに同時に再生可能な番組数が増加することはいまでもない。ただし、本発明は1枚の記録媒体11に記録された複数の番組からでも、複数の番組に同時に再生できる番組再生装置を実現することができるものである。

【0050】高速に記録域内を読み出すには、1つの番組の記録内容ができるだけ連続的な位置に配置されてあるほうがよい。通常市販されている映画ソフト等を記録したDVD-ROMでは、途中で利用者の選択数による分岐などを考慮し、連続的に記録されていない場合が多い。このため連続的に記録されよりも、光ピックアップの移動時間等のアクセス時間と要する。従って複数の同時再生には、トラックバンプアップの容量を増加させる。同時に再生は、トラックバンプアップの容量を増加させる。先にピックアップ等のメカニズムに必要な時間が短縮される。さらにトラックバンプアップをキャッシュメモリのように扱い、先読みした情報とをできるだけ再度読み出さなくとも有効とすることができ、結果としてトラックバンプアップの容量を減らすことができる。従って、放送番組等のDVD-RAM等の記録媒体1つへの記録時に、おいては、連続的に記録されることが望まれる。

【0051】利用者による再生番組選択の例を説明したが、再生番組を装置側で自動的に選択する機能を付加することができ、記録媒体内に番組信号と圧縮記録情報を含む番組記録情報からなることを説明した。記録媒体11に書き込まれている番組記録情報を参照することで、番組を選択しているため、DVD-RAMやハードディスク等の記録メディアだけでなく、DVD-ROMやCD-ROM、DVD-RやCD-Rのような記録メディアを使って同様な内容が実現できる。従ってDVD-RAMのような記録媒体11に、記録された放送番組の信号を再生する用途だけでなく、DVD-ROMのように、映画等の素材が記録した記録媒体11にも適用できる。ある市販されている映画等が記録されたDVD-ROMの場合でも、特定の時間間隔（例えば10分等）で複製回数同時に再生し、気になる特定のシーンを見つけたすような用途に有効である。

【0052】また、再生開始時において記録媒体11の記録内容（番組記録情報）を都度入手して、最も過去に記録された番組から、番組選択手段12が順に特定おの番組を選択して再生すれば、再生手段から記録しておくべき番組と自分が不要な番組とを判断しやすくなる。記録媒体11に記録できる番組数にも限りがあるので、不要な番組を消去し次の記録のための空き容量を確保する必要がある。

に、番組内容を確認する目的で利用する事ができる。
【0053】さらに、番組選択手段12が、最近記録さ

【0058】さらに、番組記録情報に出演者等の情報が含まれていれば、以下のアプリケーションを実行することができる。例えば、各番組の出演者に関する選択肢が、ある特定となり、番組選択手段12を介して選択すれば、ある特定の出演者が登場する番組のみを複数同時に再生することとができる。さらに登場シーンのみが時間指定されていれば、再生開始時点から時間送りを行った地点を各々呼び出すことができる。

出している間に再生開始するアプリケーションにも適用できる。登場シーンの特定には、番組開始時刻からの時間情報（登場開始時間と登場期間等）が必要である。さらに、先に選択した出演者と異なる出演者を選択すれば、同時に再生可能な番組を選択し、その中の時間情報を読み出す。

として、特定された番組を再生していただければよい。登場シーンを時間情報としても提供できれば、特定者が登場するシーンに対して画面の拡大を自動で行ったりすることもできる。番組選択手段 1・2 は、番組記憶情報を参照した詳細な情報を利用者に提供し、目次検索案内機能を提供したることもできる。目次検索案内機能を用いれば、希望する番組の選択や目録とするシーン再生がさらに容易になる。もちろん複数の番組の同時再生においても有効である。これら各種のアプリケーションを実行できる本発明の番組再生装置により、従来の配録された番組信号を単独で再生すること以上の新たな利用方法を提供することができ

【0059】（実施の形態2）図5は本発明の実施の形態2による番組再生方法を用いる番組再生装置の内部構成要素の一例である。図5において、31は記憶内容指示手段から読み出した複数の番組の記憶内容を番組別（記憶内容）に分配する記憶内容分配手段、32は記憶内容分配手段31で番組別に分配された記憶内容を入力とし再生を行う外部に出力する信号を生成する映像信号出力手段である。

【0060】番組再生手段32)には、分配された番組組の記録内容を保存するパツファマメモリA36、パツファマメモリB37、パツファマメモリC38と、これらの各パツファマメモリに格納された各々の番組の記録内容の再生処理を時間分割し、分割時間内各々の記録内容から記録内容を再生し、各番組の再生画像信号を生成するビデオデータ部34と、各パツファマメモリに格納された再生画像信号を分配数に合わせた画面サイズ変更に施す画像信号処理部35から構成される。

【0061】実施の形態2と実施の形態1の違いは、番組再生手段の構成の違いと、記録内容分配手段31から番組再生手段32の各バufferファームメモリに対し直接番組再生手段32の各バufferファームメモリから、及び番組再生手段32の各バufferファームメモリから、記録内容出力手段33に再生される映像信号を出力する映像信号出力手段33に再生されている点である。図5には示していないが、記録媒体11や番組選択手段12に記録内容11という構構をとっている点である。

読出手段 1・3 は図 1 に示した構成と同様のもの で構成す ることが可能であり、記録内容分配手段 3 への入力が なされるものである。

【0062】ビデオデコーダ部34の処理能力が高く、デコーダ処理を時間分割を行うことによって複数の番組のデコーダ処理が可能であれば、各番組再生毎にビデオデコーダ部を有する必要はない。NTSC出力を前提とすれば、1番組あたり30分の1秒毎に1画面を生成すればよいので、3番組の同時再生であれば9.0分の1秒

毎に1画面を生成できればよい。また1画面のデューティが終わり再生画像信号としてパップアモリA 3 6に格納されたあとは、実地の形態と同様に同時再生数に応じて画像信号処理部3 5で画面サイズの変更処理を行う。画像信号処理部3 5は、デューティ作業が終了し再生画像信号が格納されたパップアモリから順に作成していけばよい。そして画面サイズの変更処理後、もう一度各々のパップアモリに再格納される。そして映像信号出力手段3 3内の映像メモリ等へ再生画像信号が転送される。各々のパップアモリから転送された再生映像信号から出力する映像信号を生成する方法については実施の形態1と同様である。

【0063】本実施の形態2の構成によれば、番組別のメモリ等に格納すれば高機能な単一の番組再生手段323で、複数の番組再生が可能であるので、複数の番組毎の記録内容に対して再生ができるため、構成部品点数の削減をはかれるという効果を有する。

【0064】（実施の形態3）図6は本発明の実施の形態3による番組再生方法を用いる番組再生装置の基本的構成を示すブロック図である。図6において、4 1は複数個の番組に関する記憶内容が記録した記録媒体、利用者の入力もしくは番組再生装置内、自動的に再生する番組を選択する番組選択手段、4 3は記録媒体4 1内の各番組の記憶内容を読み出した記録内容取出手段、

4. 4は記録内容から手段4.3から既に出した複数の音の記録の内容を番組別47の記録内容に分配する手段4.4で番組の手段、4.5と4.6及び4.7は記録内容の分配手段4.4で番組別に分配された記録内容を入力とし各々で音声の再生を行う番組音声再生手段Aと番組音声再生手段B及び番組音声再生手段C、4.8は番組音声再生手段A4.5等から出力する音声を外部に出力する音声信号を生成する音声出力手段である。

【0065】実施の形態3と実施の形態1の違いは、音経再生手段が映像再生から音声再生に変わる点である。番組再生手段A15と音声再生手段A4として、その機能内容が一部異なる。さらに映像信号出力する映像信号出力手段18と、音声信号を出力する音声信号出力手段48で、その機能と内容が異なる。しかし番組の選択方法や各々への番組の記憶内容の読み出しについては実施の形態1と同様であるので説明を省略する。

19

【0 0 6 6】番組選択手段 4 2 によって選択された番組情報は、記録内容分配手段 4 4 に伝えられる。記録内容分配手段 4 4 は、同時記録再生に必要な情報を関連する各手段に伝える必要がある。まず複数の記録内容番組別に分配する分配数を決定し、分配数や分配のために必要な情報を生成する。次に記録媒体 4 1 内の各番組の記録内容から圧縮方式等の圧縮関連情報を読み出し、初期設定情報を番組音声再生手段 A 4 5 等へ伝え、さらに音声信号出力方式を設定する。具体例として、音声信号出力手段 4 8 からの音声信号出力に必要な出力音声方式や出力端子数と番組の出力端子位置を決定する。

【0 0 6 7】そして記録内容読出手段 4 3 によって、記録媒体 4 1 から各番組の記録内容の読み出しが開始される。この記録内容読出手段 4 3 のトラックバッファに各番組の記録内容を一時待避し、転送要求があれば記録内容分配手段 4 4 に転送する。記録内容分配手段 4 4 に転送された記録内容は、番組毎に分配先が特定されており、例えば番組 A に対する記録内容は番組音声再生手段 A 4 5 に、番組 B に対する記録内容は番組音声再生手段 B 4 6 に転送される。各番組音声再生手段内にはバッファメモリを有し、番組を逐次取り出し再生するために必要な記録内容を格納する。この記録容量はリニア PCM 方式やドルビーデジタール方式等の標準の圧縮方式では数キロバイト程度である。同時に複数の番組を再生するため番組音声再生手段 A 4 5 だけでなく、番組音声再生手段 B 4 6 や番組音声再生手段 C 4 7 の各々のバッファメモリがいっぱいになるまで各記録内容を読み出す必要がある。

【0 0 6 8】各番組が再生され、各番組記録手段内のバッファメモリ内の記録内容が減少すれば、次の記録内容を読み出しを各々要求する。各々の番組再生時に同期をとら、次の再生に必要な記録内容を必要時に要求する。各番組の記録内容を連続的に再生するにあたり、記録媒体 4 1 内からの読み出し指令は記録内容分配手段 4 4 が担当する。各番組の記録位置情報や、番組の読み出し順序制御はすべて記録内容分配手段 4 4 にて行う。記録内容読出手段 4 3 は、記録内容分配手段 4 4 からの指令により記録媒体 4 1 から各記録内容を高速に読み出す役割である。また番組音声再生手段 A 4 5 は、実際に再生に必要な情報のみが入力される。

【0 0 6 9】次に番組音声再生手段 A 4 5 内の処理内容について説明する。図 7 は、本発明の実施の形態 3 における番組再生装置内の 1 つの番組音声再生手段の構成例を示すブロック図である。

【0 0 7 0】番組音声再生手段 A 4 5 は、例えば記録内容から圧縮された音声信号情報をデコードするオーディオデコーダ部 5 2 と、記録内容を保存するバッファメモリ部 5 1 と、デコードした再生音声信号を読み出し連続的に再生音声信号として出力する音声信号出力部 5 3 か

20

ら構成する。記録内容分配手段 4 4 から分配された記録内容はまず、バッファメモリ部 5 1 に蓄えられる。そしてバッファメモリ部 5 1 から音声信号の再生に必要な圧縮関連情報及びオーディオ用の番組信号である圧縮オーディオ信号を読み出す。圧縮オーディオ信号の再生は、オーディオ符号化方式（例として、ドルビーデジタールや、MPEG 1 や MPEG 2 等の圧縮方式、リニア PCM 方式等）、サンプリング周波数、量子化ビット数、再生チャネル数等の圧縮関連情報を用いて、圧縮オーディオ信号を伸張し復号化する。圧縮オーディオ信号をデコードした結果は、バッファメモリ部 5 1 に再び格納される。各番組が再生された再生音声信号はデジタル信号形式等（D/A 変換したアナログ信号方式でもよい）で、連続的に音声信号出力部 5 3 から出力される。

【0 0 7 1】音声信号出力手段 4 8 には、各々の番組音声再生手段からのデジタル音声信号の出力と、記録内容分配手段 4 4 からの出力端子情報が伝えられる。出力端子情報の例として、番組再生装置の有する出力端子数と配置、番組の再生音声信号の出力端子から出力するかの設定、各出力端子の再生音量等の情報を含む。この出力端子情報は、音声出力開始時や再生番組数が増えられたときなどにのみ出力されればよい。再生音声信号と同期して絶えず出力する必要がある。

【0 0 7 2】バッファメモリ部 5 1 は、最初に記録内容を読み込む容量（数キロバイト程度）と、デコード結果を格納する容量（数十キロバイト程度）が必要で、合計で 1 つの番組音声再生手段 A 4 5 には、1 0 0 キロバイト程度の容量が必要である。

【0 0 7 3】記録内容分配手段 4 4 からバッファメモリ部 5 1 に記録内容を転送する方法として、バッファメモリ部 5 1 に直接転送する方式（図中点線で示す）でもよいし、オーディオデコーダ部 5 2 を介して転送する方式（図中実線で示す）でもよい。またバッファメモリ部 5 1 に書き込まれた記録内容は圧縮オーディオ信号のみでもよいし、圧縮オーディオ信号に圧縮ビデオ信号を含んだものでもよい。但し両方を含む場合、両方の記録内容を確保できるだけのバッファメモリの容量が必要となる。オーディオデコーダ部 5 2 は圧縮オーディオ信号の再生を有効とし、デコード処理を行う。また音声信号出力手段 4 8 への入力形式として、再生音声信号をサンプリングクロック（例えば 4 8 キロヘルツ）等と同期したデジタル信号で入力する。そして、音声信号出力手段 4 8 は、サンプリングクロックに同期して、音量変換等の出力信号変換をデジタル信号処理した後で D/A 変換を行い、アナログの音声信号に変換する。そして記録内容分配手段 4 4 で定められた出力端子から、設定された番組の音声信号を出力する。

【0 0 7 4】音声出力端子が複数あり、例えばヘッドホ

ン用の端子が複数ある場合には、同時再生する番組の音声信号それぞれを別々

21

ン出力に限らず、番組毎の出力端子を有する場合も同等である。一方単一番組用の再生出力端子しか有さない番組再生装置の場合には、同時再生番組からの各再生音声信号を加算して出力することができる。音声加算の場合には、どの番組を優先して（音量を大きく）再生するかについては番組選択手段 4 2 の入力にて予め設定しており、再生番組の音量情報を記録内容分配手段 4 4 を介して伝えればよい。複数の番組の複数スピーカに接続できる端子を有している場合には、番組毎に複数のスピーカの内、特定のいくつかのスピーカ別に音声出力を振り分けることもできる。従って利用者が設定した番組別の音声をと

時に出力できる。

【0 0 7 5】記録内容分配手段 4 4 により番組別の各番組音声再生手段に記録内容を分配する構成であれば、各番組音声再生手段間で異なる圧縮方式の記録内容であっても問題ない。各々の番組音声再生手段内で、単一の記録内容から再生を行い、各々の再生音声信号から音声信号出力手段 4 8 にて出力端子設定による音声信号を出力することにより、番組ごとに単位時間あたりの圧縮方式や記録情報量の異なる記録内容に対しても、各々が再生に必要な読み出し要求を出せるために、複数番組が制限なく同時再生可能である。

【0 0 7 6】同時に複数の番組の再生中に、利用者の入力によって、番組選択手段 4 2 から特定番組の単独音声出力が指示された時には、記録内容分配手段 4 4 から該当する番組以外に対する記録内容の読み出しを一時停止とする。従って記録内容読出手段 4 3 は選択された番組のみの記録内容を読み出して選択された特定番組のみの再生を続ける。音声出力端子からは、単独番組の音声のみが再生される。他は再生が一時停止される。このように機能が有すれば、同時再生中の番組で特定の番組のシーンのみ再生したいときに便利である。一方で一時停止された番組の再生はすぐにも再開できるような状態で待機する。再生を一時停止している番組音声再生手段 B 4 6 や番組音声再生手段 C 4 7 は、再生情報を保持し、すみやかに再生を開始する。従って複数番組の再生中、任意の 1 番組の再生を選択しても、他の番組を最初からもう一度再生をやり直すことなく番組再生を再開するため、利用者の便宜をはかることができる。

【0 0 7 7】また記録媒体 4 1 内の番組毎の番組記録情報のうち圧縮関連情報を参照した番組選択を行う番組再生装置を構成することができる。番組選択手段 4 2 が記録媒体 4 1 に記録された番組のうちから、番組記録情報を参照し音声圧縮方式等の情報が同一もしくは類似した番組から順に特定数の番組を選択する。具体的には音声圧縮方式等の情報を参照する。圧縮方式等が各番組音声再生手段で共通であれば、各番組の番組再生にあたり各オーディオデコーダ処理等の共有化がはかれる。各々同一の内容とすることができると、パラメータの共有化をはかることができる。また圧縮方式が統一されれば、

22

デコード負荷が予測しやすくなり、記録内容読出手段 4 2 等のトラックバッファの容量の低減化等をはかることができる。

【0 0 7 8】また記録媒体 4 1 内の番組毎の番組記録情報のうち圧縮関連情報から音声出力に関する音声出力情報を参照した番組選択を行う番組再生装置を構成することができる。番組選択手段 4 2 が記録媒体 4 1 に記録された番組のうちから、番組記録情報を参照し音声出力方式等の情報が同一もしくは類似した番組から順に特定数の番組を選択する。具体的にはサンプリング周波数や量子化ビット等の情報を参照する。サンプリング周波数等が各番組音声再生手段で共通であれば、各番組音声再生手段から出力された、各々サンプリング周波数に同期した連続的なデジタル信号による再生音声信号を加算する際に都合がよい。もし異なっていればそれぞれの信号の同期をはかってから加算するか、それぞれを D/A 変換したアナログ信号での加算が必要となる。従ってサンプリング周波数が同一であれば、同じクロックに同期した信号を扱えばよい。また、回路構成規模が少なくて済む。従って再生音質等の落とすことなく装置コストの低減化をはかることができる。なお量子化ビット数についても同様で、複数の番組の量子化ビット数が異なっていれば、一

番少ない量子化ビット数にあわせて処理等が必要となる。

【0 0 7 9】また音声信号出力手段 4 8 から出力される音声信号を 1 E C 9 5 8 に定められたビットストリーム形式のデジタル信号で出力する端子を設けることもできる。この端子に接続されたアンプ側においても、各々の番組の音声出力条件が同時再生中の番組間で変化しなれば、再生する音楽再生番組を途中で切り替えても、接続されたアンプ側の設定を変更することなく再生を続けられる。サンプリング周波数等の変更による番組切り替え時のポツ音の発生等を押さええることができる。

【0 0 8 0】さらに、実施の形態 2 で説明した構成を音声の再生にも適用することができる。記録内容分配手段により番組別に記録内容を分配し、番組別のバッファメモリに転送する。番組音声再生手段内で再生処理を時間分割し、分割時間内で各々のバッファメモリから単一の番組の再生音声信号を生成する。しかし音声出力時において、各番組のサンプリング周波数に同期した音声信号を連続的に出力するためには、音声信号出力部を複数設ける必要がある。そこで音声信号出力部を複数持てば、各々の再生音声信号を同時に出力することができる。

【0 0 8 1】一方、音声信号出力部が番組音声再生手段内に 1 つしかなく、同時に複数の番組の再生音声信号出力できない場合は、特定の 1 番組に対する再生音声信号のみを有効とする。有効とされた再生音声信号を入力とし、音声信号出力手段 4 8 にて設定された出力端子から音声信号を出力することにより、同時に再生中のうちの 1 つの番組についてのみ音声出力を行う。他の再生番

号の再生

24
生進行時の処理動作を示すフローチャートである。

【0086】実施の形態 4 と実施の形態 1 の違いは、再生する複数の番組に対して、記録媒体 6 1 内の各番組の番組記録情報 6 5 を前もって読み出し、予め複数の番組を効率よく再生できるような再生リストを生成する点である。実施の形態 1 内の説明では、各番組の再生にあたって、記録内容分配手段 1 4 が各番組の記録内容を読み出しながらその都度、次の再生リスト情報等を読み出して判断し各記録内容毎に分配を行っていた（図 2 のステップ S107 参照）。複数の番組を同時再生するにあたって、同時に読み出す各番組の情報を別々に処理する構成であった。

【0087】実施の形態 4 では各番組の記録内容を読み出して分配する前に（ステップ S138 とステップ S139）、複数の再生する番組に関する再生リストを生成する。まず番組記録情報 6 5 から各番組毎の再生リスト情報を読み出す（ステップ S136）。そして同時に再生する複数の番組再生リストを生成する（ステップ S137）。生成された複数の番組再生リストの内容からどの番組の記録内容を読み出しタイミングを決定し、各番組の記録内容を読み出す手順を開始する。

【0088】各番組の再生を進行するにあたり、複数の番組再生リストの内容を更新もしくは変更する必要がある。利用者の要求もしくは再生番組数の終了等による再生番組数の変更や、予め作成していたリスト情報の終了時には、作成してあった複数の番組再生リストの内容の変更や追加を行う必要がある。追加や変更の発生の有無を判断し（ステップ S151）、必要時には番組記録情報 6 5 を読み出して、複数の番組再生リストを変更または追加する必要がある（ステップ S153）。以降、追加や変更された複数の番組再生リストの内容に従って各番組の記録内容を読み出される（ステップ S154 以降）。

【0089】複数の番組再生リストの構造例について説明する。まず 1 つの番組についての再生リスト情報は、実施の形態 1 内で説明したとおり、各番組を再生する再生情報単位セルの再生順序を決定する再生情報であるプログラムチェーンから構成される。各プログラムチェーンは再生セルの位置情報等を格納し、各セルには各番組の再生用画像信号や音声信号の格納位置情報や再生時間等が納められている。そこで同時に再生する番組の各再生リスト情報を獲得し、各プログラムチェーンの情報から再生時間等の情報、格納位置に関する情報等を読み出し、どのような順序で各番組を読み出せば効率よく再生できるかを算出する。記録媒体 6 4 内の格納位置が近く連続的にトラックパツファ等に読み出しおけば、無駄が少なくなる読み出し方や、各番組の再生時間情報による効率的なプログラムチェーンの読み出し順序等を決定し、複数の番組の再生リスト情報を含む再生番組再生リスト情報を、各番組の再生リストとは別に、新規に生成する。

23
組についてはその間音声の出力はしない。但し各々の番組に対応したパツファメモリには音声出力の有無に拠らず、常に構成の番組をデコードした再生音声信号を格納する構成とする。すると同じ記録媒体 4 1 に記録された複数の曲を一度に同時再生し、再生曲を次々に切り替えて聴きたい曲を探し出す用途や、同じ音楽ソースに対し異なった符号化方式で圧縮して記録した各々の圧縮オーディオ信号を、同時に再生することによって、同時再生中の音声の比較試験等の用途等に適用した番組再生装置を提供することができる。

【0082】なお、映像再生の例と音声再生の例を別々に説明してきたが、音声つき映像番組に対しては同様に適用できる。各々の番組再生手段に番組毎のパツファメモリ部に加え（圧縮オーディオ信号と圧縮ビデオ信号の両方を取り扱う容量が必要）、ビデオデコーダ部とオーディオデコーダ部の両方を有し、画像信号処理部及び音声信号出力部を有する構成とすれば、映像と音声の同時番組再生が可能となる。

【0083】さらに、再生する記録媒体として DVD ビデオ規格を満足する DVD-ROM を再生する場合に、ビデオデコーダ部とオーディオデコーダ部に加え、字幕等の情報をデコードするサブピクチャデコーダ部に、いつでもビデオデコーダ部と同様に番組毎に設け、ビデオデコードした各画面上、サブピクチャデコーダ部した画面を重ね合わせる構成とすれば、対応が容易である。加えて、DVD オーディオ規格を満たすディスクも、さらには歌詞などのリアルタイムテキストデコーダ部や静止画面デコーダ部を番組毎に設ける構成とすれば、対応可能である。

【0084】（実施の形態 4）図 8 は本発明の実施の形態 4 による番組再生方法を用いる番組再生装置の構成のうち各番組を読み出す複数の番組再生リストに関する処理を示すブロック図である。図 8 において、61 は複数の番組に関する記録内容を記録した記録媒体、62 は利用者からの入力もしくは番組再生装置内で再生する番組を選択する番組選択手段、63 は記録媒体 61 内の各番組の記録内容を読み出す記録内容分配手段、64 は記録内容の記録内容に分配する記録内容分配手段、65 は番組記録媒体 6 1 内に記録された番組記録情報、66 は番組記録情報 6 5 の内容を読み出して、同時に複数の番組を効率よく再生するための再生リストを生成する複数の番組再生リスト生成手段等（なお、記録内容分配手段 64 は番組別に記録内容を分配し、番組再生手段等（図示せず）にて各番組ごとに再生を行い、映像信号出力手段等）で出力する信号を生成する点は、実施の形態 1 等と同一の説明を省略する。

【0085】図 9 は、本発明の実施の形態 4 に係る番組再生方法の初期時の処理動作を示すフローチャートである。図 10 は実施の形態 4 に係る番組再生方法の番組再生

26
の再生確認を行うことが容易にすることができる、再生機能を強化した番組再生方法を実現する番組再生装置を提供することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図 1】本発明の実施の形態 1 における番組再生装置の構成を示すブロック図

【図 2】本発明の実施の形態 1 における番組再生方法の動作開始時の処理動作を示すフローチャート

【図 3】本発明の実施の形態 1 における番組再生装置の番組再生手段の構成を示すブロック図

【図 4】本発明の実施の形態 1 における番組再生方法をを用いる番組再生装置の番組再生処理動作を示すフローチャート

【図 5】本発明の実施の形態 2 における番組再生装置の番組再生手段の構成を示すブロック図

【図 6】本発明の実施の形態 3 における番組再生装置の構成を示すブロック図

【図 7】本発明の実施の形態 3 における番組再生装置の番組音声再生手段の構成を示すブロック図

【図 8】本発明の実施の形態 4 における番組再生装置の複数の番組再生リストに関する構成部分を示すブロック図

【図 9】本発明の実施の形態 4 における番組再生方法の初期時の処理動作を示すフローチャート

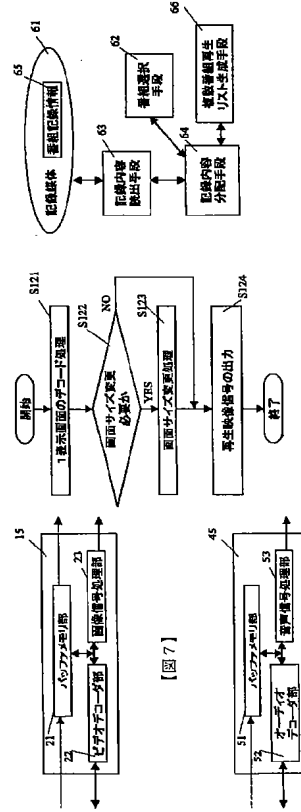
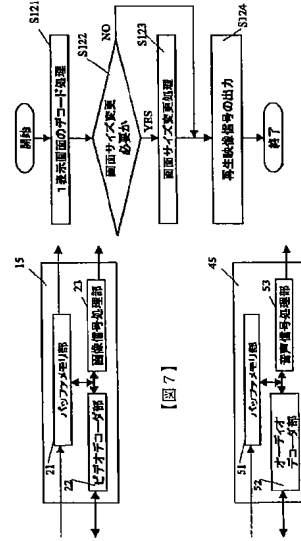
【図 10】本発明の実施の形態 4 における番組再生方法の再生継続時の処理動作を示すフローチャート

【符号の説明】

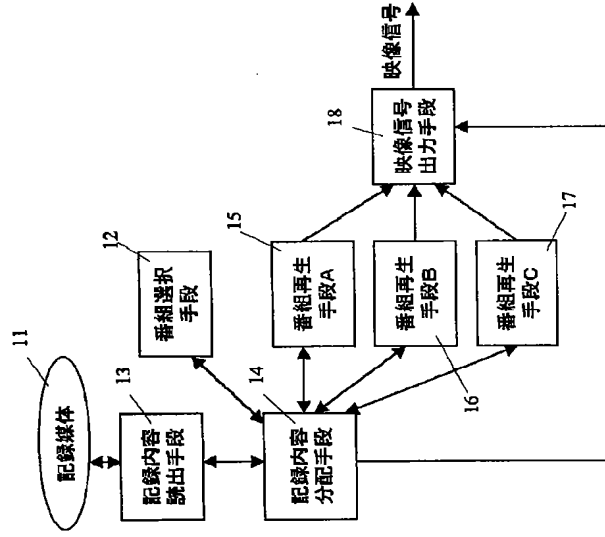
- 11 記録媒体
- 12 番組選択手段
- 13 記録内容読み出し手段
- 14 記録内容分配手段
- 15 番組再生手段 A
- 16 番組再生手段 B
- 17 番組再生手段 C
- 18 映像信号出力手段

【図 4】

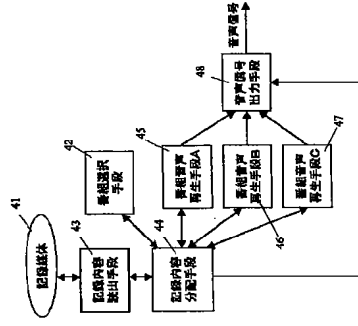
【図 8】



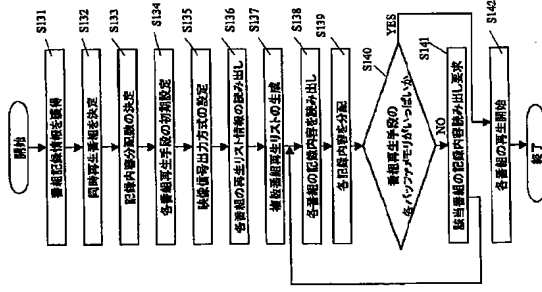
【図1】



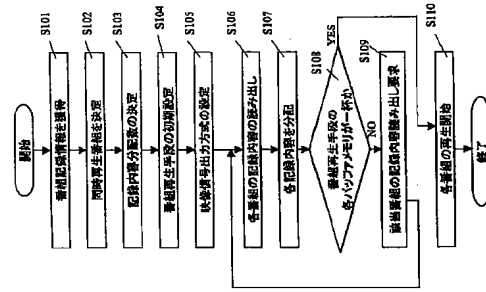
【図6】



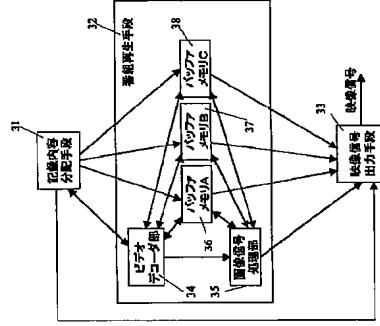
【図9】



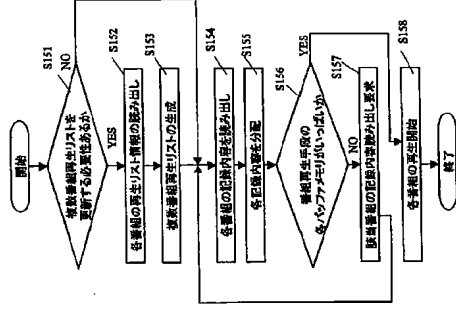
【図2】



【図5】



【図10】



フロントページの続き

(51)Int. Cl. 7	識別記号	F I	キーワード(参考)
H 0 4 N	5/262	H 0 4 N	5 D 1 1 0
	5/265		N
	5/91	G 1 1 B	27/02 A

Fターム(参考) 5C023 AA02 AA14 AA27 AA38 BA16
CA01 DA04 DA08 EA03
5C052 AA17 AB03 AB04 CC11 DD07
GA03 GA08 GB06 GB07 GB09
GG01 GG03 GG05 GE04 GF01
GF04
5C053 FA14 FA23 FA27 GA11 GB05
GB11 GB38 HA29 HA33 JA03
JA07 JA21 KA04 KA21 KA24
LA06 LA14
5D044 AB07 BC04 CC04 DE92 DE96
EF03 GK04 GK07
5D086 BA03 BA10
5D110 AA13 AA14 CA43 CA46 CB06
CB07